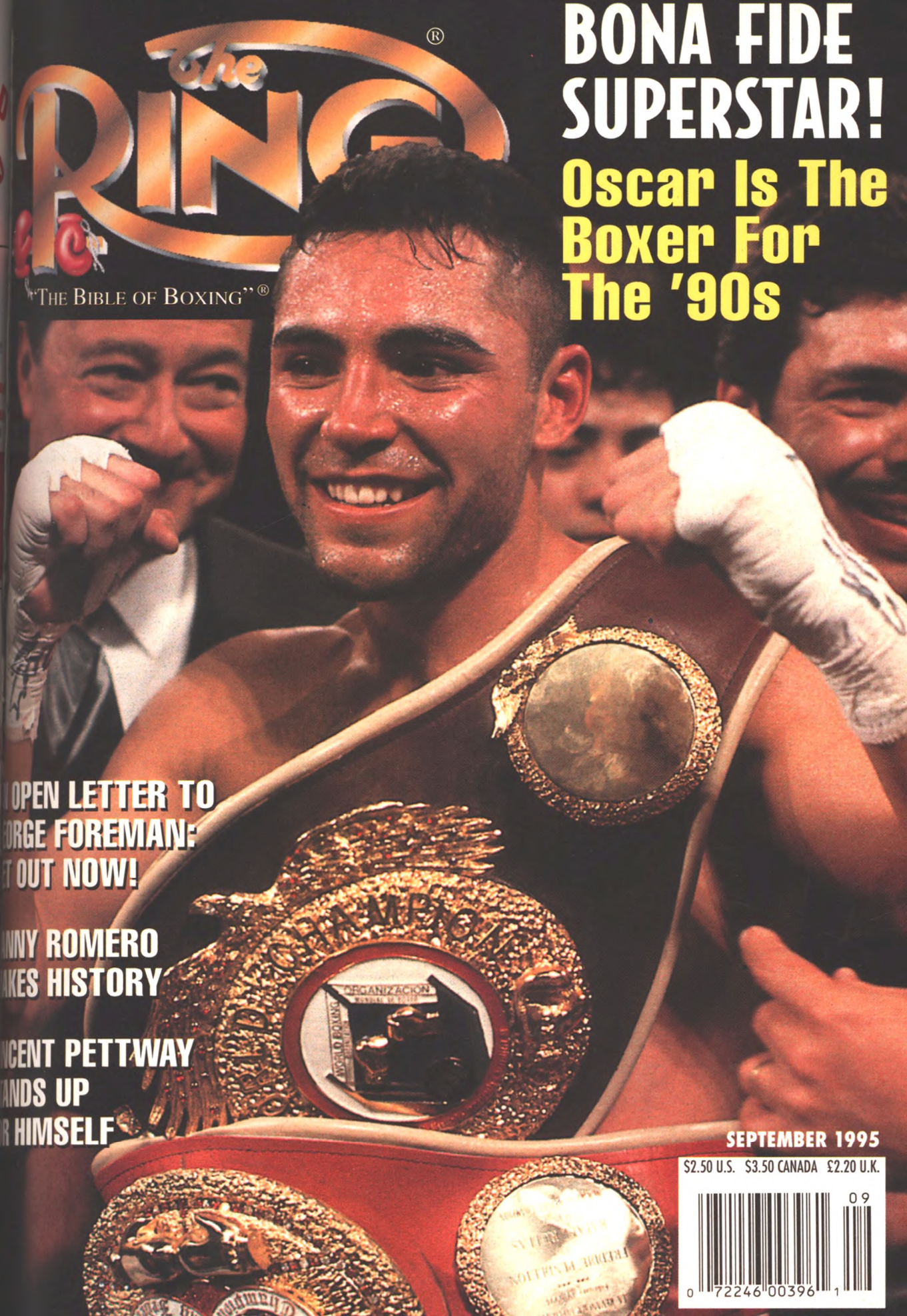
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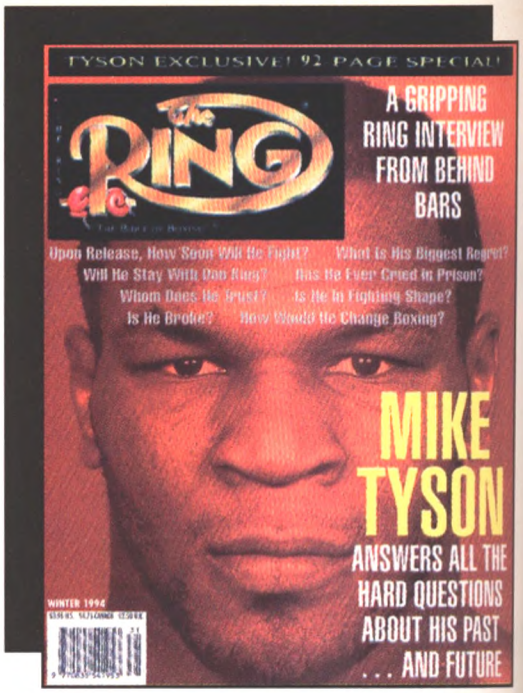

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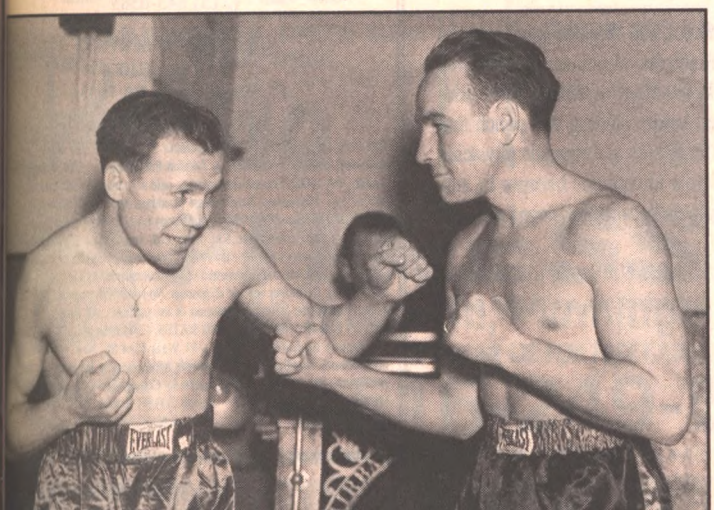

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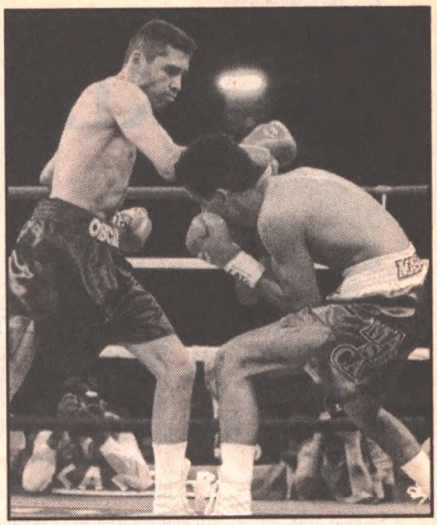

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RINGSIDE

For boxing, it's never easy. The first Saturday in May was a big day in sports, and Oscar De La Hoya's kayo of Rafael Ruelas should have led off the SportsCenter highlights, ahead of the buzzer-beating three-pointers, the 430-foot home runs, the game-winning overtime goals, and even the stretch run of the Kentucky Derby. But shortly after viewers were treated to "The Golden Boy's" devastating knockdown punches, they winced at the sight of Colombian 130-pounder Jimmy Garcia flat on a stretcher, an oxygen mask covering most of his face. Then came the all-too-familiar words: " ... emergency surgery was performed, and doctors were hopeful ... "

The tragedy has forced boxing to reexamine itself. In similar cases, insufficient preparation at ringside, and not the fate of the fallen boxer, has drawn the focus: The lack of an ambulance outside the arena ... the failure of paramedics to immediately administer oxygen ... the time lost before the fighter is taken to a local hospital. But the state of Nevada has learned its lessons well, and in the case of Garcia, who collapsed in his corner following his 11th-round TKO loss to WBC super featherweight champion Gabe Ruelas and died 13 days later, the medical attention was both prompt and thorough.

After the fight, everything was done to maximize Garcia's chances. But what about during the fight?

Last November, Garcia, then the IBF's mandatory challenger (he was unrated by THE RING), was easily beaten on points by champion Genaro Hernandez in Mexico. He was inactive in the six months between the Hernandez and Ruelas bouts. Why he was awarded a second world title try is a question only Jose Sulaiman's ratings committee can answer.

His lack of credentials aside, Garcia was badly outclassed from the start. In the first round alone, Ruelas landed an astonishing 43 powerpunches. Garcia might've won one stanza—the eighth. He retreated throughout, and his offense consisted of a weak jab and an occasional inaccurate right. After Ruelas, who cruised through the middle rounds, accelerated in the 10th, referee Mitch Halpern called Dr. Flip Homansky into the Colombian's corner. Garcia was allowed to continue, but Halpern called a halt 25 seconds into the 11th. About two minutes after the stoppage, Garcia collapsed in his corner.

The question, then, is whether the fight should have been stopped earlier because Garcia was taking a sustained beating without striking with any weapons of his own. Under such conditions, we've learned we can't rely on a fighter's corner to surrender. But what about Halpern and Homansky? Should the referee or the doctor have intervened in the name of ring safety?

While largely ineffective, Garcia *was* punching back most of the way. But those who argue that the fight should have been stopped long before the 11th round claim it was clear he wasn't going to win.

In addition to their normal duties, are we to ask our referees and ringside physicians to judge a fighter's chances of victory? There are hundreds of examples, of course, of a battered fighter suddenly rebounding to score a come-from-behind kayo. Most recently, WBA middleweight champion Jorge Castro was bloodied and butchered before landing one punch that instantly turned around his battle with John David Jackson. The referee and ringside physician chose not to stop that fight. Was it wrong to have allowed Garcia to continue because he suffered a tragic TKO loss and right to have allowed Castro to fight on because he scored a miraculous kayo? Of course not.

There are no easy answers here. One thing, however, is clear: If we're going to encourage referees and doctors to halt one-sided fights before they play themselves out, we're also going to have to redefine the very structure of "the hardest game."

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 74, No. 9 **September 1995**

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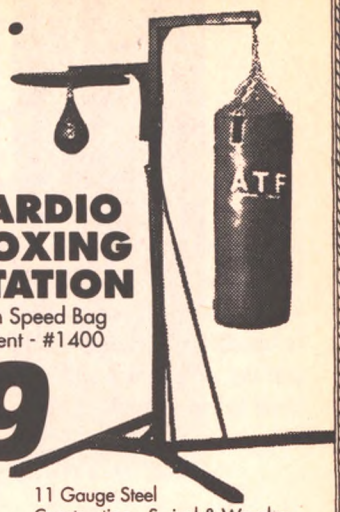

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COME OUT WRITING

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THE FOREMAN FOLLY

I've just witnessed the worst decision in recent boxing history. The mugging victim's name was A[l] Schulz. Any judge who saw George Foreman winning that fight should be dismissed. As for Big George, g[ive] up the title, retire, and don't ever come back.
HEATH TREU
Wasau, WI

After watching Foreman-Schulz on TV, it seems to me the judges are determined to bring boxing down [to] the level of the WWF. It was one of the worst decisions I've seen in my 40 years of following boxing. Foreman got his butt kicked, and he looked like Schulz had hit him with a baseball bat. HBO's Larry Merchant, who had Foreman ahead on points, must've been watching from a different building.
OLLIE SHERIDAN
New York, NY

I guess you guys were right about the mismatch: Schulz clearly took the fight to Foreman and outbattled him all the way. It's sad when you see a guy go out there, give the performance of his career, beat up the champion, and then lose because of his opponent's overrated reputation. I'll never waste my time watching another Foreman fight, unless it's against Riddick Bowe, who would put him down by round four. After Foreman-Schulz, I think I'll switch over to baseball.
SERGIO PINEDA
Lodi, NJ

Photo by Chris Farina

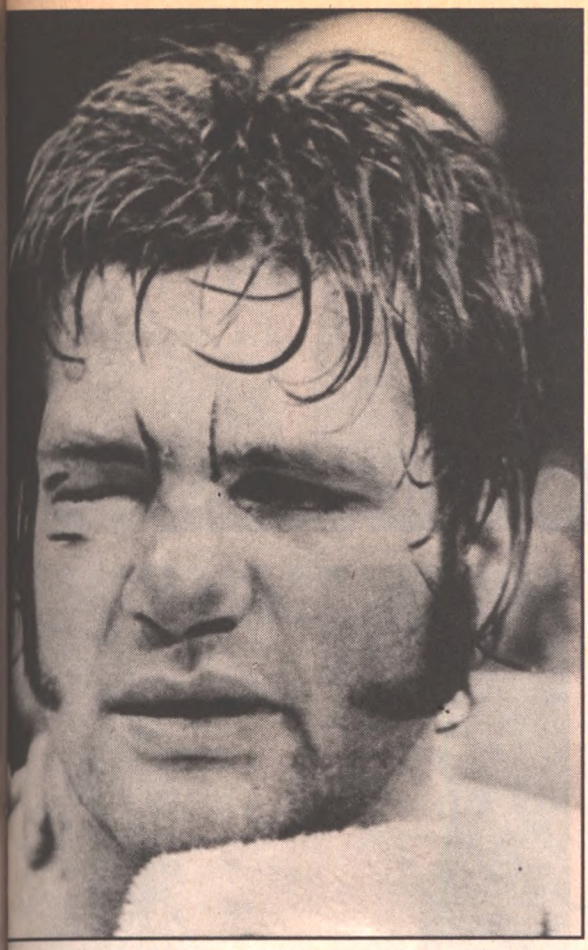
Against Schulz, Foreman kept coming up short

I am a boxing judge in Ohio and a lifelong boxing fan who found the decision in the Foreman-Schulz fight highly unjust. The younger German challenger clearly outmaneuvered and outhustled the slow, ponderous Foreman. If Schulz packed any kind of wallop, I'm sure he would've stopped George. I understand Foreman is a beloved national symbol, but to allow that to cloud the judges' perception of the fight is criminal.
DAN McKRELL
Kent, OH

Tyson-Foreman a matchmaker's dream? Wrong. It would be boxing's worst nightmare. Don't let a great champion go down at the hands of "Iron Mike." Big George is hard-headed and has too much heart. Tyson will have to hurt him bad to win, and he *will* win. The fight could seriously damage both fighters. Please, boxing, don't make this mistake.
KELLY WARD
Pine Bluff, AR

THE TYSON QUIZ

I'm a life-long follower of Mike Tyson, and I was delighted to find a quiz in your special Tyson issue of The RING EXTRA. I consider myself a Tyson expert, and I tore through the quiz, answering 17 of 20 correctly. However, upon closer inspection, I gave myself credit for 18 because I'm certain one of your answers was



Frazier left Stander with track marks

...ng. You said that when Tyson unified the heavyweight title by defeating Tony Tucker, he was older than Floyd Patterson when that champion ...initially crowned. In fact, Tyson was 21 years and 32 days old when ...eat Tucker, and Patterson was 35 days shy of his 22nd birthday when ...layed Archie Moore.

...CHARD FLETCHER

...ter, England

...HE UNDESERVING ...EAVYWEIGHTS

I enjoyed Steve Farhood's article, "History's 10 Least-Deserving ...vyweight Title Challengers" (June 1995). In addition to the fighters ...were selected, other names came to mind, such as Don Cockell, Joe ...man, and Marvis Frazier. But my all-time favorite has to be Ron ...nder, whose mismatch with Joe Frazier was simply brutal. In a prefight ...rview, Stander's wife was asked about his chances. She said, "You ...'t enter a Volkswagen in the Indianapolis 500."

...VID JOENKS

...ta Clara, CA

...RAZIER vs. LISTON

I disagree with the experts in the "Battle Of The Legends" matchup ...ween Joe Frazier and Sonny Liston (June 1995). How could *anyone* fig... that Frazier would've beaten Liston? Frazier's take-a-punch-to-give-... style wouldn't have worked against someone who punched as hard as ...n. Liston would've knocked out Frazier in the first few rounds, just like George Foreman did. In a recent interview, Chuck Wepner said Liston punched harder than Foreman, and he faced both heavyweights. If Foreman knocked out Frazier, Liston would've done the same thing.

TOM PARROTT

Quaker Hill, CT

It was good to see a dream fight between Frazier and Liston debated, but I was shocked that both Larry Merchant and Floyd Patterson made bad calls in favor of Frazier.

Liston was a top-10 rated fighter a lot longer than Frazier, and he had many more fights. If Frazier was at a disadvantage stylewise vs. George Foreman, he surely would've fared no better against Liston, who was a better boxer than a young George. I admit Frazier was far more efficient at pursuing an opponent and cutting off the ring than Liston, but that wouldn't have helped him in this kind of fight. Liston would've made short work of Frazier.

MIKE REVELES

San Diego, CA

WHERE'S "THE BULLDOG"?

For the last 10 issues or so, you have, for some reason, failed to include Scotty Olson in your junior flyweight or flyweight ratings. Olson, a class act both inside and outside the ring, is 31-2, yet you give him no credit at all. Olson is Canadian, and you should know we have some good fighters north of the border, like Otis Grant, Kirk Johnson, Billy "The Kid" Irwin, and Egerton Marcus. How about a few stories on some good Canucks?

RICK POMMELLS

Gibbons, Alberta ■

Scotty Olson and unnamed sparring partner

ROUND ONE

TOP RANK BOXING TURNS 15

In April, ESPN's *Top Rank Boxing* celebrated its 15th anniversary. The series has included 656 cards, more than 7,000 fighters, 83 cities, 28 states, and shows in England and Italy. There have also been nearly 30 blow-by-blow announcers and analysts, including Al Bernstein, who has made the entire run and continues to serve as one of the most respected voices in the sport.

Says Bernstein, "I'm really happy—and maybe even a little surprised—that this is working, and that for 15 years we've been able to sustain our fans and viewers without mass rebellion."

Bernstein's greatest hits:

•**Best Fights:** Caveman Lee KO 5 John LoCicero; Tyrone Trice W 12 Kevin Pompey; Jesus Salud KO 8 Rudy Zavala

•**Worst Decision:** Louie Espinoza W 10 Alfred Rangel: "If Espinoza won two rounds he was lucky."

•**Best Postfight Interview:** Tim "Dough Boy" Tomashek: "He said 'Jeepers' about 10 times."

•**Most Talented ESPN Boxer Never To Win A World Title:** Bernard Taylor: "He was the best pure boxer I've ever seen."

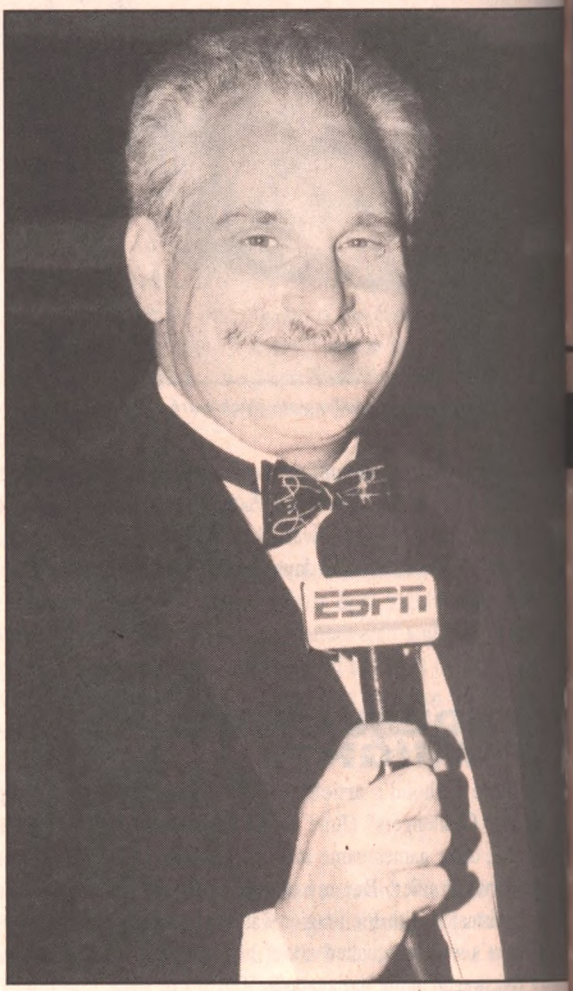
•**Wackiest Boxer:** Mike "The Bounty" Hunter: "Boxing's version of Dennis Rodman."

•**Most Emotional Moment:** "Johnny Tapia winning the WBO junior bantamweight title in front of [illegible] fans at The Pit in Albuquerque. That culminated his climb back from four years of alcohol and drug abuse."

•**Nicest ESPN Boxers Never To Win A World Title:** Harold Brazier, Kevin Pompey, Buck Smith

•**Weirdest Moments:** "Donald Curry's gloves breaking three times during a bout in Lake [illegible] Louisiana; arena blackouts during shows in Cape Cod and Wheeling, West Virginia."

–William H. [illegible]



Bernstein: The anchor of Top Rank Boxing

DAMN THOSE BOXING MAGAZINES!

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Miller and Toney before the breakup

About 10 days ore his CBS-tele- ed stoppage of hony Hembrick, o-division former mpion James ney fired long-time ner Bill Miller and laced him with Las gas-based Eddie stafa Muhammad. e reason? Toney s he was upset with Miller's quotes in the July 1995 issue of *KO*, ster publication of THE RING. Miller had been critical of Toney's formance, as well as his work habits.

Interviewed by THE RING after his dismissal, Miller said, "I just d it like it was, and he didn't want to hear it. I put up with enough f for five years. Like those outbursts from time to time. They're to never having grown up. You hope with time he matures, but s still the same.

"James isn't the fighter he used to be because he doesn't train he used to. In the beginning he was an extremely hard worker. n he got money and he got lazy. It's a self-destruct type of g."

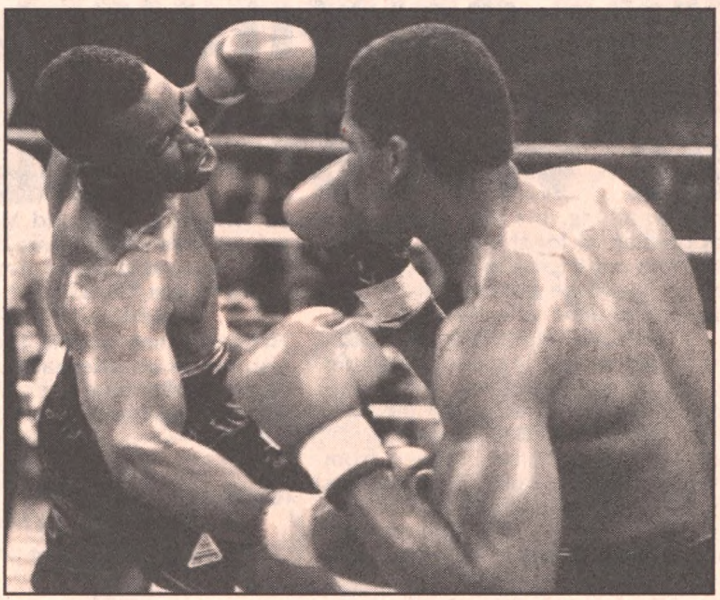
–Steve Farhood

THE 10 REASONS GEORGE FOREMAN SHOULD FIGHT AXEL SCHULZ IN GERMANY

10. Unlimited sparring opportunities with Max Schmeling.
9. Hard-core German fight fans will be wowed by Big George's eat-first style.
8. Bob Arum has promised bratwurst for everyone at the final prefight press conference.
7. Chance to prove it's not only the Las Vegas judges who don't know how to score fights.
6. Day trips to Hamburg and Frankfurt for hamburgers and frankfurters.
5. Rematch will satisfy the IBF, which was stupid, uh, *nice* enough to sanction first fight.
4. Zaire isn't available that weekend.
3. HBO viewers will be spared George's fight commentary for at least one more show.
2. Midas Muffler sales need a boost in the Black Forest.
1. On German TV, George is bigger than reruns of *Hogan's Heroes*.

TYSON: THE MOVIE

The most interesting thing about the HBO movie *Tyson* was attention paid to detail. For instance, during the scene where Tyson loses the heavyweight title to Buster Douglas in kyo, one of the challenger's cornermen wears his baseball cap ckward. Only insiders or hard-core fans might recognize the redited, non-speaking character as Douglas' former manager, Johnson. All viewers, on the other hand, could appreciate the formance of Michael Jai White, who played Tyson. If you see ite in the street, you won't do a double-take or ask for an auto- ph. But White studied HBO's tapes of Tyson the way "Iron e" once studied his managers' films of Battling Nelson and Wolgast. He sounded like Tyson (minus the lisp), fought like , and adopted many of his mannerisms.



Michael Jai White packed a wallop in Tyson

Some of the other actors and actresses, however, were far less vincing. While George C. Scott and Kristen Wilson, portraying s D'Amato and Robin Givens, were believable, Paul Winfield, o played Don King, looked ridiculous and read his lines as if ying Shakespeare. Moreover, James Sikking failed to capture e composity of Bill Cayton, and Clark Gregg looked more like vin Costner than the puckish Kevin Rooney.

Tyson remains true to the former champion's story throughout, and the boxing scenes are well-choreographed. But if you were expecting to learn t makes a particularly complex fighter tick, you went to bed disappointed. Even White's commendable performance couldn't turn a slightly-bet- than-average TV movie into a classic.

–Steve Farhood

PINK NAIL POLISH?

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Zamarron was New York's first woman winner

Robert Duffy has observed thousands of hands being wrapped during his tenure as an inspector with the New York State Athletic Commission. On April 21, he witnessed something different. He saw, for the first time, the wrapping of a fighter who was wearing pink nail polish.

It wasn't some kind of joke. When Andra Gorman and Anissa Zamarron climbed into the ring at Long Island's Huntington Hilton, it marked the first time women were allowed to box professionally in New York State. The bout took place two weeks after the New York Golden Gloves crowned its first women champions in the tournament's 68-year history.

"This is a unique attraction," said David Meyrowitz, who promoted the card at the Hilton. "I'm sure there are some traditionalists who would say this isn't right. But it's a different time. This is entertainment."

Gorman and Zamarron, who both weighed 106 pounds, boxed four two-minute rounds. They used eight-ounce gloves and were required to wear breast shields. The 39-year-old Gorman, a mother of three from Rockville, Maryland, had boxed pro once before. Zamarron, 24, was San Antonio's two-time defending Golden Gloves champion.

After getting stunned by a right hand in the first 30 seconds, Zamarron assumed command and went on to win a unanimous decision. While the fighters' skills were novice class at best, their determination and heart would have impressed any traditionalist.

–Robert Cassidy

FINALLY, FAMECHON GETS BELTED

In 1969, Johnny Famechon won the world featherweight title by outpointing Jose Legra in London. As was the custom, the Australian was to receive a championship belt from THE RING. But Editor and Publisher Nat Fleischer and Famechon failed to hook up, and the presentation was never made. In fact, the belt was missing for more than 20 years. It was finally located in a private collection in the USA. Tattersalls, a sweepstakes organizer in Australia, paid $13,700 to acquire the belt, and it was presented to Famechon, who lives in Melbourne, on his 50th birthday.

A smiling Famechon said the belt didn't fit as well as it would have when he was still fighting. He donated it to the Gallery of Sport, a museum in Melbourne.

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OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Veteran trainer **Nick Belfiore**, 85, died in Woodbury, New Jersey. The Philadelphia-based veteran worked with, among others, former world champions Matthew **Saad Muhammad** and **Jeff Chandler**. He and his brother Joe owned and ran the Juniper Gym in South Philly ... Former heavyweight contender **Ron** Lyle, 54, boxed for the first time in almost 15 years, stopping **Bruce Johnson** in four rounds in Erlanger, Kentucky. Johnson, recently released from an Ohio jail, had lost 13 in a row, 10 by kayo. Lyle is hoping for a rematch with George Foreman, but Big George says he's not interested ... Promoter **Rick "Elvis"** Parker was murdered in a hotel room in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Police said heavyweight **Tim "Doc" Anderson**, who was formerly in Parker's stable, was found at the scene. He reportedly turned over a .38-caliber handgun and confessed to the murder. Anderson says Parker poisoned him before the fighter's rematch with **Mark Gastineau**, and he subsequently suffered kidney and liver damage ... **Marty Cohen**, who managed, among others, **Michael Dokes** and **Hector Camacho**, died at age 89.

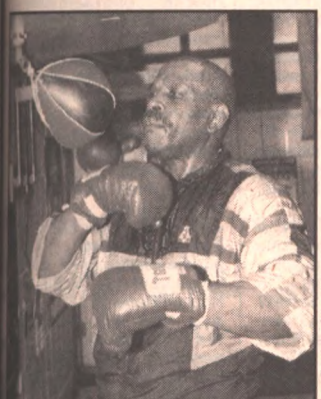


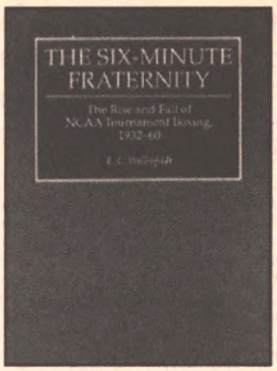
Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Lyle: Still punching at 54

THE PUNCHLINE

According to *Sports Illustrated*, heavyweight Tim "Doc" Anderson, who was arrested for the murder of promoter Rick "Elvis" Parker, is penning a book on boxing. The working title: *Liars, Beggars, Cheaters, And Whores.*

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



Did you know that in April, the National Collegiate Boxing Championships were held at the U.S. Air Force Academy? Were you even aware that 17 colleges, universities, and service academies offer boxing as a competitive intercollegiate sport? Probably not. The media would rather cover figure-skating.

It's a far cry from the days when boxing on the intercollegiate level was approved and sanctioned by the NCAA, and the national championship tournaments drew more spectators than college basketball games.

The Six-Minute Fraternity: The Rise And Fall Of NCAA Boxing, 1932-60, chronicles the sport's glory years on American campuses. Author E.C. Wallenfeldt, who grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, and was among the crowds of 15,000 that routinely attended University of Wisconsin boxing meets, spent a decade tracking down the history and heroes of college boxing and getting it all down in both illuminating and exhausting detail in this 406-page volume.

Only one college boxer, middleweight champion Billy Soose, went on to win a world title. But many of the NCAA champions interviewed by Prof. Wallenfeldt went on to become judges, lawyers, and businessmen. And they credit their experiences as college boxers for much of their success.

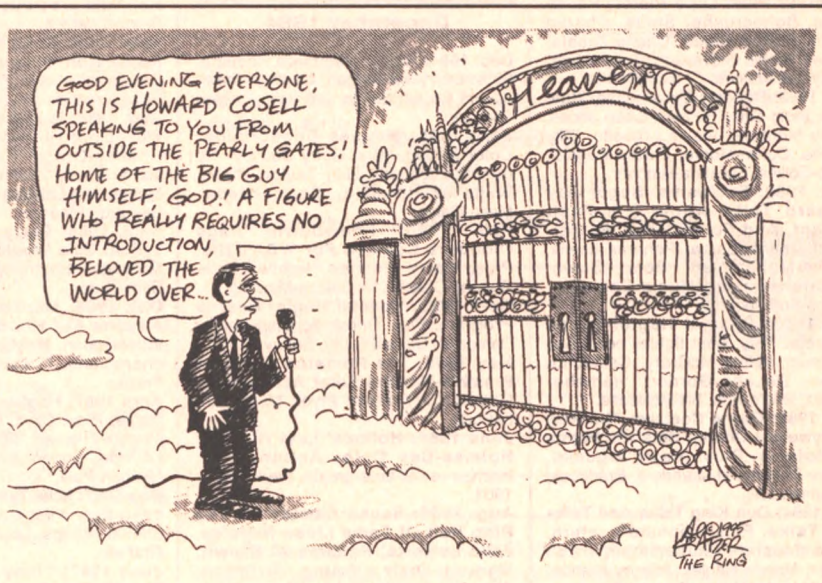
For all the steps taken to differentiate NCAA boxing from the pro ring, which at various times included forbidding crowd cheering until the end of a round and dressing up coaches in tuxedos, it passed into oblivion following the death of UW boxer Charles Mohr at the 1960 championships.

While Prof. Wallenfeldt's pedantic, textbook style is about as exciting as a Tony Tubbs fight, his tome is a worthwhile contribution to boxing history. But it won't appeal to (and clearly isn't aimed at) the average boxing fan, to whom the $55 price tag will only reinforce the attitude that the only good thing ever associated with college was the panty raid.

As we went to press, *The Six-Minute Fraternity* was available only by mail order. Contact the Greenwood Publishing Group, PO Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007.

–Pete Ehrmann

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Feb/83	☐ Aug/85	☐ Sep/87		☐ Jul/92	☐ Oct/94
Apr/83	☐ Sep/85	☐ Oct/87	☐ Jan/90	☐ Aug/92	☐ Nov/94
May/83	☐ Oct/85	☐ Nov/87	☐ Feb/90	☐ Sep/92	☐ Dec/94
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ll 9 $34	☐ Feb/86	☐ Mar/88	☐ Aug/90	☐ Apr/93	☐ Feb/95
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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended May 18, 1995

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Bruce Seldon
Heavyweight

Jorge Luis Gonzalez
Heavyweight

Merqui Sosa
Light Heavyweight

Ivan Robinson
Lightweight

Manuel Medina
Featherweight

Chatchai Elite-Gym
Flyweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *26-5 (WBC Champ)*
2. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *36-1*
3. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Houston, TX *74-4 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *36-1*
5. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *26-1*
6. **BRUCE SELDON** — Atlantic City, NJ *32-3 (WBA Champ)*
7. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *25-0-1*
8. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** — Las Vegas, NV *23-0*
9. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** — Westerville, OH *22-2*
10. **TIM WITHERSPOON** — Philadelphia, PA *41-4*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *43-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *26-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *24-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *21-0*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *18-3*
7. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *24-3-1*
8. **TORSTEN MAY** — Germany *9-0*
9. **PATRICE AOUSSI** — France *14-0*
10. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA *24-4*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *48-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *15-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *46-2-2*
6. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *31-1*
7. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *26-0*
8. **MERQUI SOSA** — New York, NY *24-4-2*
9. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-3*
10. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *37-1-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *40-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *29-3*
4. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *26-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *41-1-2*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *40-5*
7. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *25-1*
8. **FREDERIC SEILLIER** — France *39-5-2*
9. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *37-6-1*
10. **BRYANT BRANNON** — Trenton, NJ *14-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **JORGE CASTRO** — Argentina *96-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *27-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *24-3*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *33-1*
5. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands *51-3 (WBC Champ)*
6. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-4-1*
7. **JOE LIPSEY** — Lansing, MI *24-0*
8. **DANA ROSENBLATT** — Malden, MA *24-0*
9. **RODNEY TONEY** — Campo, CA *19-1-2*
10. **RICHIE WOODHALL** — England *19-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Limit: 154 pounds

1. VINCENT PETTWAY
Baltimore, MD 38-4-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina 53-2
3. BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY 66-4-1
4. GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy 38-4-1
5. VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY 25-5-1
6. YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico 58-1
7. TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA 38-6
8. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 19-1
9. RAUL MARQUEZ
Houston, TX 20-0
10. LAURENT BOUDOUANI
France 28-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA 35-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
Puerto Rico 26-0 (IBF Champ)
3. IKE QUARTEY
Ghana 29-0 (WBA Champ)
4. CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland 31-1
5. DERRELL COLEY
Capitol Heights, MD 26-0-2
6. WILFREDO RIVERA
Puerto Rico 20-0-1
7. OBA CARR
Detroit, MI 33-1
8. EAMONN LOUGHRAN
Ireland 24-1-1
9. ANDREW MURRAY
Guyana 18-2
10. VALERY KAYUMBA
France 39-2-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
Warren, OH 51-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 14-0 (IBF Champ)
3. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico 93-1-1 (WBC Champ)
4. JUAN COGGI
Argentina 68-3-2
5. DAVID KAMAU
Los Angeles, CA 26-0
6. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
Brentwood, NY 27-3-2
7. FRED PENDLETON
Miami, FL 38-20-4
8. JAN BERGMAN
South Africa 26-0
9. KHALID RAHILOU
France 23-2
10. RAY OLIVEIRA
Falls River, MA 24-5

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Whittier, CA 18-0 (IBF Champ)
2. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico 36-0 (WBC Champ)
3. ORZUBEK NAZAROV
Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. RAFAEL RUELAS
Arleta, CA 43-2
5. STEVE JOHNSTON
Denver, CO 15-0
6. MIGUEL JULIO
Colombia 29-1-1
7. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico 36-4
8. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
9. SHANE MOSLEY
Pomona, CA 17-0
10. IVAN ROBINSON
Delran, NJ 17-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Limit: 130 pounds

1. GABE RUELAS
Arleta, CA 41-2 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA 32-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX 29-1-2
4. AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana 37-3-2
5. REGGIE TUUR
Whitestone, NY 37-3-1
6. ED HOPSON
St. Louis, MO 26-0 (IBF Champ)
7. ARTURO GATTI
Jersey City, NJ 20-1
8. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
Argentina 54-1-1
9. FREDDIE LIBERATORE
Bayside, NY 20-4-1
10. ROBERT GARCIA
Oxnard, CA 21-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
Mexico 36-2 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI 39-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. STEVE ROBINSON
Wales 20-9-1
4. ELOY ROJAS
Venezuela 30-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY 42-1
6. YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea 28-2-1
7. TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY 52-3-1
8. EVER BELENO
Colombia 30-1
9. MIGUEL ARROZAL
Portland, OR 24-5
10. MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico 50-6

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. VUYANI BUNGU
South Africa 27-2 (IBF Champ)
2. HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ
New York, NY 32-2-2 (WBC Champ)
3. ANTONIO CERMENO
Venezuela 22-1 (WBA Champ)
4. NASEEM HAMED
England 18-0
5. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico 42-7-3
6. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX 38-2-1
7. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
Mexico 35-0
8. WELCOME NCITA
South Africa 34-2
9. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1
10. EDDIE CROFT
San Mateo, CA 22-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
Japan 24-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM
Thailand 54-4-1 (WBA Champ)
3. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
Las Vegas, NV 16-0
4. SERGIO REYES
Fort Worth, TX 11-1
5. MBULELO BOTILE
South Africa 16-0 (IBF Champ)
6. ELIECER JULIO
Colombia 29-1
7. AL KOTEY
England 20-1
8. NANA KONADU
Ghana 34-2
9. JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan 10-2-1
10. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
Thailand 51-4

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. HAROLD GREY
Colombia 19-0 (IBF Champ)
2. HIROSHI KAWASHIMA
Japan 16-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. JOHNNY TAPIA
Albuquerque, NM 29-0-2
4. HYUNG CHUL LEE
South Korea 19-4 (WBA Champ)
5. JULIO BORBOA
Mexico 24-5
6. CECILIO ESPINO
Huntington Park, CA 29-3-1
7. DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela 20-2
8. SATOSHI IIDA
Japan 17-0
9. GERRY PENALOSA
Philippines 28-1-1
10. SEUNG KOO LEE
South Korea 17-3-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Japan 20-0 (WBC Champ)
2. DANNY ROMERO
Albuquerque, NM 24-0 (IBF Champ)
3. SAN SOR PLOENCHIT
Thailand 21-0 (WBA Champ)
4. MARK JOHNSON
Washington, D.C. 23-1
5. ALBERTO JIMENEZ
Mexico 28-3-2
6. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA 38-5-1
7. HIROKI IOKA
Japan 28-5
8. ROBBIE REGAN
Wales 15-1-3
9. CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM
Thailand 20-0
10. FRANCISCO TEJEDOR
Colombia 42-3

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Mexico 41-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ 33-2
3. HI YONG CHOI
South Korea 18-1 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico 43-4-4
5. CARLOS MURILLO
Panama 27-2
6. JESUS CHONG
Mexico 27-5
7. LEO GAMEZ
Venezuela 27-4-1
8. YUICHI HOSONO
Japan 21-3-1
9. ERIC GRIFFIN
Jasper, TN 14-2
10. HADAO CP GYM
Thailand 24-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Welterweight
2. ROY JONES
Super Middleweight
3. RICARDO LOPEZ
Strawweight
4. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Junior Flyweight
5. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Lightweight
6. FELIX TRINIDAD
Welterweight
7. FRANKIE RANDALL
Junior Welterweight
8. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Flyweight
9. KOSTYA TSZYU
Junior Welterweight
10. MIKE McCALLUM
Light Heavyweight

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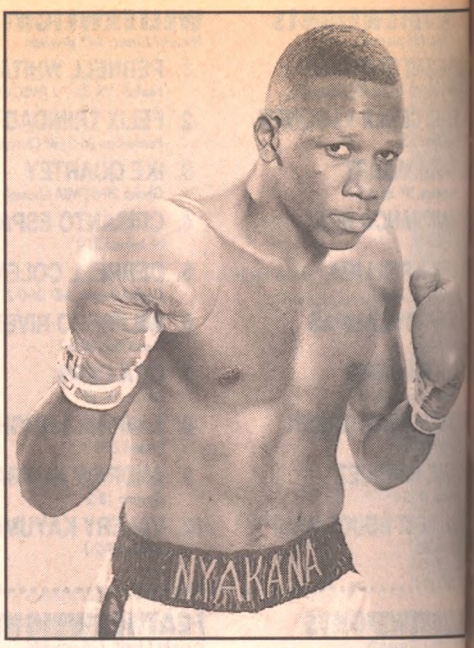

PRO RECORD

1990		
April 21	Tony Martel, Amandsberg, Belgium	KO 3
May 12	Michel Monteyne, Wassmunster, Belgium	W 6
Oct. 13	Jean Linquet, Ghent, Belgium	KO 5
Nov. 1	Thierry Belhadj, Izegem, Belgium	W 6
Dec. 25	Burhan Zorlu, Izegem	KO 1
1991		
Jan. 25	Eladio Morell, Middelkerke, Belgium	KO 2
Feb. 9	Mehmet Demir, Roeselare, Belgium	W 6
March 1	Freddy Demeulenaere, Mont St. Amand, Belgium	W 8
April 27	Patrick Vungbo, Ardooie, Belgium	W 10
June 1	Michel Berzigotti, Loncin, Belgium	KO 4
Sept. 27	Anthony Travis, Ghent	KO 4
Nov. 1	Habib Hammani, Izegem	KO by 2
Dec. 25	Marco Cipollino, Izegem	KO 5
1992		
Jan. 31	Mohamed Louati, Differdange, Luxembourg	KO 1
March 28	Carlos Tavares, Hussigny, France	W 8
April 23	Benali Rahou, Paris	KO 2
May 29	Carlos Tavares, Amneville Thermes, France	KO 7
Oct. 16	Daniel Bicchieray, Paris	KO 5
Nov. 7	Willie Beattie, Differdange	KO 1
1993		
Jan. 2	Del Bryan, Differdange	W 8
Sept. 25	Willy Wise, Poughkeepsie, NY	D 8
Dec. 25	Patrick Vungbo, Izegem	W 12
1994		
Oct. 13	Anthony Joseph, Melville, NY	KO 3
Dec. 9	Jose Vera, Worcester, MA	KO 5
Dec. 25	Santo Colombo, Izegem	W 8
1995		
Feb. 3	Rick Edson, Melville	KO 3
March 17	Lloyd Joseph, Bushkill, PA	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
27	25	1	1	15

GODFREY NYAKANA

Junior Middleweight

By Robert Mladinich

When 24-year-old junior middleweight Godfrey Nyakana was growing up in his native Kampala, Uganda, he never dreamed of becoming a boxer. In fact, he wasn't even all that familiar with some of the country's greatest boxing heroes, former world champions such as Cornelius Boza-Edwards, John "The Beast" Mugabi, and Ayub Kalule. "When I was young, they had all left Uganda to pursue their careers elsewhere," says Nyakana. "Of course, heard of them. They were very popular. But wasn't very interested in boxing and knew very little about them."

Nyakana's athletic interests didn't go much beyond soccer, which he loved. In fact, the only reason he learned how to box was to protect himself in the brawls that were commonplace after soccer games. "Kids in Uganda are only interested in three sports," he explains. "Kung-Fu, boxing and soccer. I loved soccer, but had to learn how to help myself out after the games."

Nyakana outpoints Mehmet Demir in Belgium

What he quickly learned was that he was a much more natural boxer than soccer player. "Boxing was very easy for me from the first day," he recalls. I was only 12 years old, and many of the kids had much more experience. But I never got cut, never got black eyes."

Nyakana became an amateur sensation, much to the chagrin of his parents. His father, Fi[illegible] was a banker, and his mother, Joyce, an international shoe importer. Education had always been paramount in the household, and it was assumed that

(Continued on page

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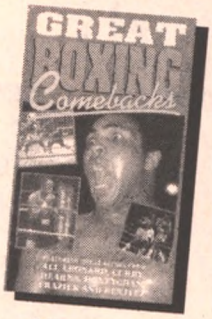

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THAT REPORTER

Howard Cosell would disagree, of course, but maybe his best boxing work was still to be done. What follo in the years after he turned a cold, slumped shoulder to the pro game in 1982 were dramas and controversies se ingly crafted for him. In '85, Bob Arum even tried to talk him into working Hagler-Hearns, a matchup wh promised fury begged for a Cosellian soundtrack. Presumably, Arum told "The Mouth" to just say that he lying about being repulsed by the fight game yesterday, and that he was telling the truth about loving it today.

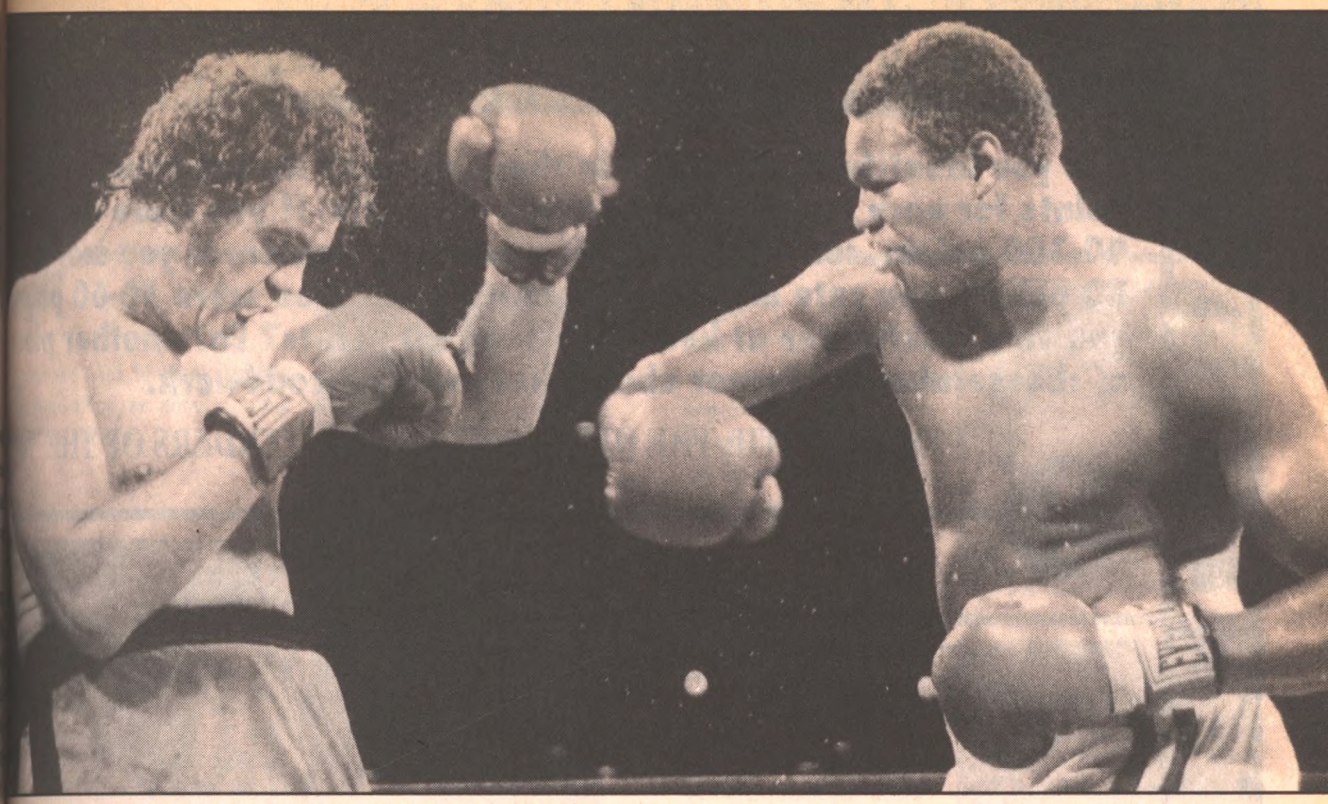
Because Cosell, blind to his own hypocrisy, sat in his ivory tower of an apartment on the nights of so m big fights in the '80s and '90s, we are le wonder how different our memories w be if it had been him at ringside writing captions for the pictures. And to tell you truth, there were many times when my m inserted him into the action anyway, though he were Forest Gump with Brooklyn accent and a bad toupe (Pompous is as pompous does.)

There was Cosell flipping his wig Marvelous and "The Hit Man" detona warheads in round one. ("And now Hea is hurt!") There was Cosell labeling Whitaker-Chavez decision a charade an debacle, telling a trash-talking Riddi Bowe that he was being extremely tru lent, and screaming himself hoarse Tokyo with a hysterical, "Down go Tyson! Down goes Tyson! Down ...!"

The one-time franchise of ABC Spo Cosell died on April 23. He was 77. H death, from a heart embolism, came fi years after he had had a cancerous grow removed from his chest, a decade after h last TV sports broadcast, and three yea after his final radio show. He died a lone bitter, nasty man, and by the spring of '9 the trail of former friends who were on b terms with him—Chet Forte, Alex Wall and Mike Lupica, among them—seemed crowded as the road leading to Yasgu Farm in the summer of '69.

The true shame of Cosell's passing that we can't say sports has lost an eld statesman, a mentor, or a great visionar Those venom-spewing twilight years ma him anything but. What sports has lo though, is the greatest fight announcer wh

Cosell, who died at age 77 in April, was a lot of things to a lot of people, but to boxing fans he was the last TV announcer who could call a fight by himself. ***Monday Night Football*** *may have made him a star, but only after boxing had made him.*



Holmes' one-sided 1982 win over Tex Cobb will be remembered as the fight that turned Cosell against boxing. He never called another pro bout.

lived. If you want to argue Don Dunphy, whose work I have seen on film, I will listen. If you mention anyone else, I will tune you out than I tune out Al Bernstein, Chick Hearn, or any Albert who isn't Marv.

Why was Cosell the best? Because "this reporter," as he liked to call self, was both journalist and entertainer, a mix of Edward R. Murrow Edward G. Robinson. He seemed as right for the job of covering Evel vel's leap of 14 buses as he was for the job of covering Larry ka's leap to the World Football League. Combine that style with box- a sport that produces drama without even trying, and the result was s theater at its most captivating. Love it or loathe it, Cosell's voice the only one we heard for years on ABC's boxing telecasts. He was by-blow man and analyst, a boxer-puncher who assumed both roles ly. He didn't need ex-jocks to his left, "unofficial officials" to his or a telecast host who kicked off the show from a perch atop the seats.

Boxing is incredibly simple. Two men throw punches while a third one ces the rules. No substitutions or shifts. No hash marks or blue lines. me limit on getting your shot off. No best-of-seven to determine a Maybe the Sweet Science lends itself best to one announcer, and haven't found one good enough to solo in the wake of Cosell, who was the only one good enough to make people forget Dunphy.

the years ahead, there is so much that people will think of when they Cosell's name or see the mug that looked like it could have been plas- a Hush Puppies ad: his defense of Muhammad Ali's stand against tnam War, his support for baseball's Curt Flood, his friendships ckie Robinson and Vince Lombardi. So much of that took place I was old enough to understand what it was all about. I would have to ask Cosell about it, though, and about the raised fists of Tommy and John Carlos, the lowered guards of Ken Norton and Joe Frazier, Munich in '72, Montreal in '76, and O.J. Simpson racing down the sideline. But he turned down so many of my interview requests for THE RING and its sister publications that I stopped counting the rejections after about a dozen.

Cosell will always be linked to *Monday Night Football* and the Olympics and a really bad variety show he hosted from the Ed Sullivan Theater in 1975. But for many people, Cosell's career will always be about boxing. So often, he even resembled the fighters he covered. There was a time when he was on top of his game, a heavyweight champion with a face as recognizable as Sugar Ray Leonard's and an ability to rouse the same intense passions as Ali. He was a hard hitter who could take a punch as well as anyone. Then, one day, he went in the tank. Cosell's epiphany following Larry Holmes-Tex Cobb in '82 seemed as bizarre as George Foreman's sighting of Jesus Christ following his bout with Jimmy Young five years earlier. And I've always wondered if, despite his denials, there wasn't a little part of Cosell that felt like Roberto Duran did five minutes after he quit in New Orleans and then wanted so badly to take back the words.

Yes, Howard Cosell made an incredible impact on sports broadcasting, but I'll always remember the impact he made on sports-crazy teenagers like myself when we were growing up in the boxing-rich '70s. On countless Saturday afternoons, he rolled through the living room like a tidal wave, washing away whatever tinge of guilt we may have had that we weren't off doing our homework or helping our sisters clean out the basement. He provided an answer to our mothers' question: "What are you doing in front of the TV on such a nice day?" As though legalizing our drug of choice, he provided the legitimacy we sports junkies were seeking. He made boxing seem important. Very important.

This reporter and others have always appreciated it, a fact about which *that* reporter, no doubt, couldn't have cared less. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: THE HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDERS OF THE '70s

1

Flanked by a pair of admirers, this European champion won his first 30 bouts by kayo. Then he flattened out, never securing a shot at the world title.

2

This big-bully puncher, shown crushing Bill Sharkey, might have peaked when he kayoed Duane Bobick. He was exposed by John Tate in 1979.

3

We'll spot you the heavyweight on the left, Joe Bugner. His rival, a winner on points, had just scored a hat trick, simultaneously capturing the British, Commonwealth, and European titles.

YOUR BOXING IQ

4

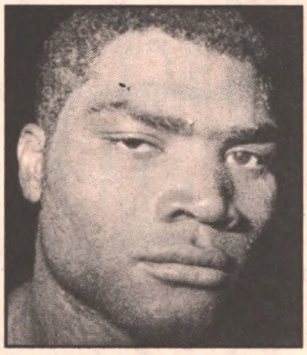
photo was taken 11 years after the
t lasted all of two minutes in his
y at world honors.

5

You may know this former contender as one of today's top referees. As a heavyweight, he beat, among others, Boone Kirkman, Chuck Wepner, and Jimmy Young.

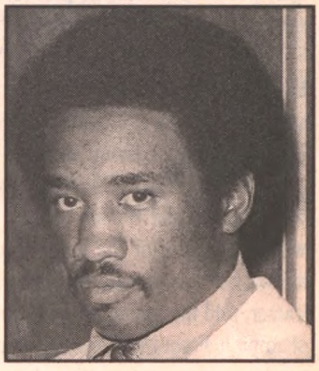
6

the decade's big men were as
hyped as this top contender, who
his career by knocking out 24
ctive opponents. Then along came
amed Quarry ...



7

Once the best of the West, this contender, like plenty of other promising heavyweights, was ruined by Earnie Shavers.



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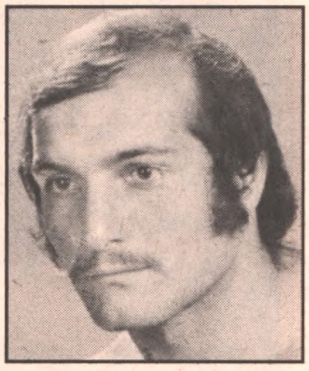
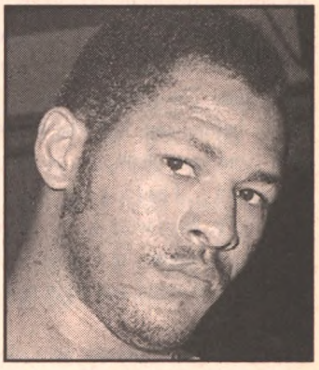
eavyweight had one of the divi-
best jabs, but lacked the chin to go
. He nonetheless secured a try at
C title in 1980.



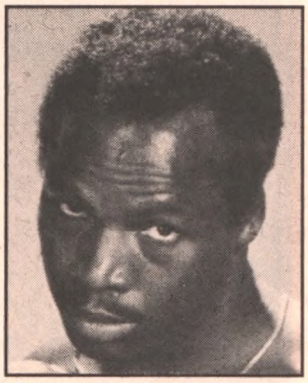
9

Ken Norton was undefeated until he encountered this Venezuelan, who campaigned in California early in the decade. His top-10 run ended with a stoppage loss to Ernie Terrell.



0

-and-cold heavyweight from
ria, this contender beat Mike
r and Mac Foster, but lost to
Stephens and Ron Lyle.



ANSWERS:

1) Jose Urtain
2) Kallie Knoetze
3) Jack Bodell
4) Joe "King" Roman
5) Randy Neumann
6) Mac Foster
7) Howard Smith
8) Lorenzo Zanon
9) Jose Luis Garcia
10) Stan Ward

The Return Of The American F

DANNY ROMERO MAKES BOXING HISTORY

By Steve Farhood

Sugar Ray Leonard won world titles in a record five different divisions? How sweet. James Warring scored the fastest kayo in title fight history? Well, you could knock me over with a featherweight. Michael Moorer became the first southpaw heavyweight champion in history? Just another *left*over stat.

It's tempting to pooh-pooh the accomplishments of today's champions by pointing to the fact that with three major world titles to shoot for, almost everyone is bound to do something special. But before you minimize Danny Romero having become the first American flyweight champion in 60 years, consider this: Romero may have won only one-third of the title, but the fighter who preceded him, Philadelphia's Midget Wolgast, shared the throne with, among others, New York City's Frankie Genaro. Wolgast was recognized by New York State and Genaro by the NBA and IBU. In fact, in its uneven 82-year history, the flyweight title has been split as often as it's been unified. The last undisputed champion was Italy's Salvatore Burruni in 1966.

Since the reigns of Wolgast and Genaro, only a handful of Americans have even fought for the world 112-pound crown (see sidebar). Romero was well-aware of the jinx, even while campaigning as a junior bantamweight and bantamweight. When Danny Romero Sr., his father and trainer, told the fighter of the opportunity to drop down and challenge IBF champion Francisco Tejedor, Romero didn't even consider what would surely be a momentous struggle to make weight. He told his father to sign the contract before the promoters changed their minds.

"I knew of the history," Romero said. "I even knew Wolgast fought like me; he was real short and fought aggressively. It's funny, but going into a fight, I'm always real calm. This fight, I was overexcited even a few weeks beforehand. My first title fight ... the opportunity to become the first American champion in 60 years ... bringing the title back to my hometown ... I had to settle down.

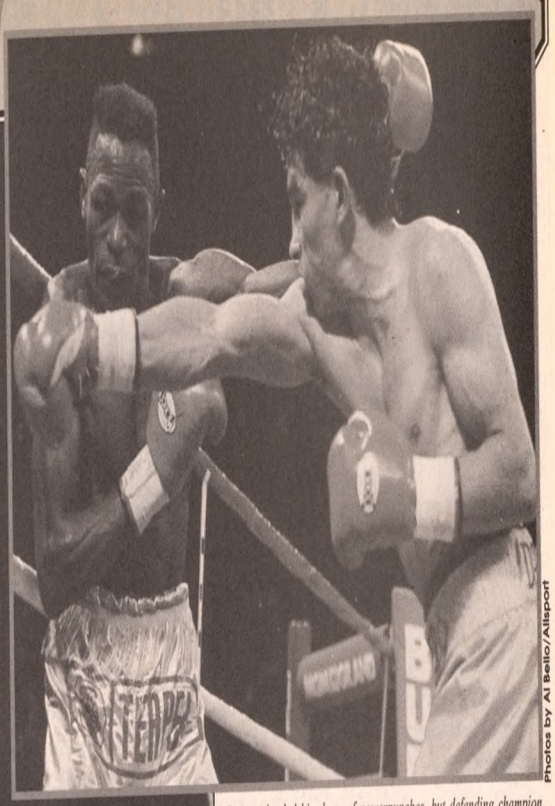
"We've been working for 15 years, 10 hours a day, for this, then all of a sudden it happens in 45 minutes. It still hasn't kicked in, it hasn't hit any of us. I'm on cloud nine right now. When it does, I don't know where I'm gonna go."

For a fighter already on a cloud, the sky doesn't seem like such an imposing limit.

***

A star was born on the George Foreman-Axel Schulz undercard at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, even if the birth was delayed by 15 minutes or so. We don't know how Midget Wolgast might have fought Tejedor, but for the first five rounds, he surely would have done better than Romero. Making his first defense, Tejedor, 111, Barranquilla, Colombia, threw an amazing 76 jabs in the opening round alone. The 27-year-old champion enjoyed a six-inch reach advantage, and his goal was to feature enough lateral movement to make Romero dizzy.

"If Tejedor had come right at Danny," said Romero Sr., "Danny would've knocked him out right away and no one would've seen his boxing skills."



Photos by Al Bello/Allsport

Romero landed his share of powerpunches, but defending champion Tejedor stubbornly refused to surrender. The Colombian was both outpunched and outboxed over the last half of the fight.

In the second, Romero, 112, Albuquerque, New Mexico, showed swelling under his right eye, and in the third, Tejedor snuck in a couple of lead rights. Round by round, however, Romero, 20, inched closer. In the fifth, the momentum began to switch corners, even as the challenger was being outpunched two to one.

Romero didn't only *seem* bigger and stronger, he really was. The fighters weighed in at 5 p.m. the day before the bout. When they climbed through the ropes 26 hours later, Tejedor scaled 115 and Romero a staggering 125½. It's one thing for a fighter the size of James Toney to gain 15 pounds in the hours before a fight. But Romero added more than 10 percent of his body weight! In essence, flyweight vs. flyweight turned into junior bantamweight vs. featherweight. Is that a fair fight? Maybe not, but Romero broke no rules.

"We began a medical study on January 1," said Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "We're trying to find the right balance. If fighters weigh in at 8 a.m. on the day of the fight like they used to, do they have enough time to replenish the nutrients in their bodies? They do if they weigh in 24 hours before the fight, but they're also likely to put on a lot of weight before the opening bell. So far we've reweighed maybe 300 fighters, and 98 percent of them have gained some weight."

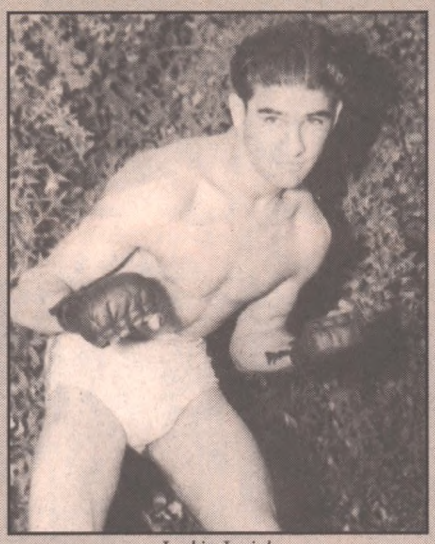
Romero downplayed the second weigh-in; he was wearing combat boots and heavy jeans, he said, and probably weighed only 119 or 120. Besides, it wasn't as if he had crash-dieted to make weight and then gorged himself, a la Roberto Duran before the "*No Mas*" fight.

"This time, making weight wasn't all that bad," he explained. "In the beginning, I had withdrawals giving up hamburgers and french fries, but

THE 60-YEAR-OLD JINX

When Albuquerque's Danny Romero outpointed defending IBF 112-pound titlist Francisco Tejedor, he became the first American-born flyweight champion since Midget Wolgast in 1935. It seems almost impossible, but in the 60 years between Wolgast's title fight loss to Small Montana and Romero's triumph, there have been approximately 250 flyweight world title fights, with only *seven* Americans having fought for the crown. To put this oddity in further perspective, consider that in the 15 years since Jeff Chandler won the WBA bantamweight title, there have been no less than 10 American world champions at 118 pounds, as well as a handful of challengers.

A list of the flyweight challengers who followed Wolgast and preceded Romero:



Jackie Jurich

•Jackie Jurich, L 15 Peter Kane, September 22, 1938, Liverpool, England: Jurich qualified for this opportunity in a most undistinguished manner—by suffering six knockdowns en route to a 12th-round stoppage loss to then-champion Benny Lynch. Lynch scaled 6½ pounds over the division limit and was stripped after the bout. Jurich and England's Kane met for the vacant title, with the Californian suffering six more knockdowns on his way to a thorough whipping.

•Henry Brent, KO by 13 Hi Sup Shin, November 22, 1986, Chunchon, South Korea: If the performance by New York City's "Hot Pepper" Brent is indicative of what American flyweights have to offer, no wonder they haven't been granted an opportunity in a staggering 48 years. Making his first defense, IBF champion Shin dominates throughout and leads by eye-popping unanimous scores of 119-107, 120-106, and 120-105 at the time of the stoppage. USBA champion Brent, 9-5, had won only two of his previous five bouts.

•Ray Medel, L 12 Fidel Bassa, October 2, 1988, San Antonio, Texas: Unlike most American flys, USBA champion Medel receives the opportunity to vie for the world title in his hometown. From the eighth until the final bell, the challenger, 16-4, bangs away, opening three cuts on the face of WBA champion Bassa, 21-0-1. But the unbeaten Colombian, who is making his fifth defense, hangs on to win by poorly received unanimous scores of 116-115, 116-112, and 117-111.

•Tony DeLuca, KO by 4 Duke McKenzie, March 8, 1989, London, England: "Bazooka"

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Able to control Romero with his jab in the early rounds, Tejedor needed to establish distance. However, much of the fight was contested at close range, where Romero's advantage in strength, along with his weight advantage, was evident.

my father oversaw a special diet, and I did it over 12 weeks. After the first weigh-in, I had some lasagna and fettucine, then in the morning some french toast and my daily vitamin drink. It wasn't all that much. We know my metabolism, and I could've eaten a piece of bread and—*boom*—put the weight on."

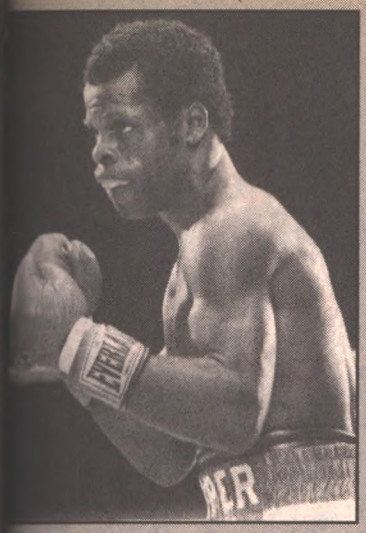
From round six to the finish, Romero, 24-0 (21), might as well have been a middleweight. He began his domination by pounding the body and reaching Tejedor, 42-3 (30), with rights to the head. At the start of the seventh, Tejedor rallied with a hook and counter right, then brazenly moved inside to extend the shootout. In the last 10 seconds of the round, Romero responded with four consecutive rights, and for the first time Tejedor looked vulnerable, if not a likely kayo loser.

Romero said he was first sure of victory in the eighth. But who would have guessed he would sweep the last five rounds by outboxing the boxer? Suddenly, he seemed comfortable in ring center, and his jab was at least as effective as that of the champion. "I can beat anybody's jab with mine," he said. "But moving around and not getting touched—I surprised even myself a little bit."

"He hasn't had the opportunity to do it in a fight, but he does it all the time in the gym," his father said of the uncharacteristic display of finesse.

For stretches in the ninth and 10th, a tiring Tejedor leaned against the ropes, bending at the waist but failing to move his feet. Romero cleverly picked his spots with combinations, then backed off and forced the champion to pursue. "The guy was very crafty, so we just outboxed him, beat him at his own game," explained Romero, who, like Tommy Morrison, refers to himself as "we," and not "I."

"I want you to box this round," Danny Sr. told his son before the start of the 12th. But when a right staggered Tejedor one minute in, Romero began a race against the clock. In the last 10 seconds, a series of punches



Henry Brent

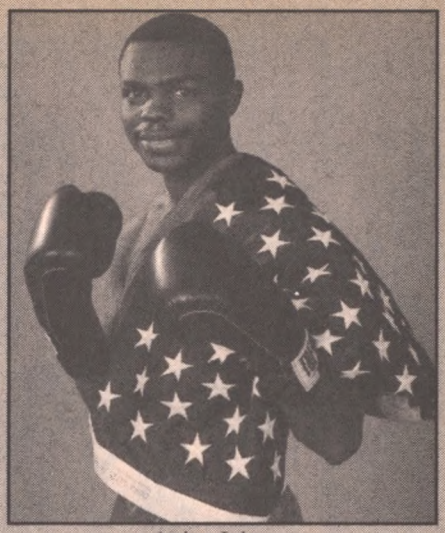
...uca, 14-2-3, never gets the chance to threaten ...land's McKenzie, whose first defense comes ...e a wildly supportive crowd at Royal Albert ... In the third round, and with IBF champion ...Kenzie, 23-0, boxing neatly in ring-center, ...Diego's DeLuca suffers a cut over his right ...Blood begins to drip into the challenger's eye ...e fourth, prompting referee Bill Connors to ...halt at the 2:03 mark.

•**Louis Curtis, L 12 Dave McAuley, March 17, 1990, Belfast, Northern Ireland:** USBA champion "Heidi" Curtis, a 1976 Olympian and a loser in three of his last four bouts, has the unenviable task of attempting to dethrone local hero and IBF champion McAuley on St. Patrick's Day. After three tries at making weight, McAuley boxes masterfully and wins by unanimous scores of 118-109, 119-108, and 120-108. Maryland's Curtis drops to 14-4-1. Says the winner, "My hands felt sore at the finish after hitting him with so many hard punches."

•**Isaias Zamudio, L 12 Yuri Arbachakov, July 16, 1993, Kobe, Japan:** Making his third defense, the Russian-born WBC champion finds California's switch-hitting Zamudio particularly difficult. Mandatory challenger Zamudio, 33-4-1, drags his taller foe into a phone booth war and wins most of the late rounds. Still, the unbeaten Arbachakov emerges victorious by unanimous scores of 117-115 (twice) and 116-113.

•**Arthur Johnson, L 12 Phichit Sithbangprachan, January 23, 1994, Surat Thani, Thailand:** It's not easy winning on the road, but it's almost impossible when you're the challenger, and there are 50,000 fans screaming for the local favorite. 1988 Olympian Johnson, 8-1 (5), capitalizes on his considerable height and reach advantages and punches with precision. Unbeaten IBF champion Sithbangprachan, who is making his fourth defense, is the aggressor throughout, but not an *effective* one. Regardless, he wins by disputed but unanimous scores of 115-113 (twice) and a ridiculous 118-110. THE RING correspondent Joe Koizumi scores for Minnesota's Johnson by 116-112.

–SF



Arthur Johnson

...e Tejedor through the ropes. He climbed back in at the seven-count of ...e Richard Steele (USA), and with only two seconds remaining in the ... Romero was denied an opportunity to land even one more punch.

"After I put him through the ropes," he said, "I didn't hear the bell. I ...mber walking back to the corner thinking, *It's sleep time, baby.*"

That Romero hammered his opponent for seven consecutive rounds ...d still failed to score a stoppage underlined the jump in class Tejedor ...esented. But the cards indicated that jump hadn't come too soon. ...r Vilchis (Mexico) scored 116-112, Dalby Shirley (USA) 116-111, ...Stuart Winston (USA) 115-112.

"Tejedor was the toughest opponent of Danny's career, and it was his ...performance," said Danny Sr. "I first saw he had it when he boxed his ...exhibition at age five or six. He fought twice in one night. He domi-...d the first guy, then he got even better in the second fight. He's been ...g like a world champion ever since."

***

The heavyweights may have been the headliners, but it's not HBO's ...to introduce a fighter like Romero and then forget about him. The ...rk's philosophy is to create stars, and according to Vice President ...DiBella, who is responsible for HBO's commitment to the lighter ...ts, "Romero can be even bigger than Michael Carbajal and Chiquita ...lez. There's no question we'll use him again on HBO, as well as ...O [the network's pay-per-view arm]. He's a good kid, exciting, ...matic, and bilingual, and he knows how to talk. He has the potential ...a star."

...New Mexico, of course, Romero has already been a *super*star for a couple of years. Displaying maturity beyond his years, he regularly speaks to schoolchildren across the state. Six days after winning the title, he visited the governor's mansion in Sante Fe, and Gov. Gary Johnson declared April 28 Danny Romero Day. As we went to press, a parade was scheduled in the town of Grants, where Romero was to be given the key to the city. Be sure it's going to be a busy summer.

"If you think this is all gonna change him, forget it," said Danny Sr.

(Continued on page 56)

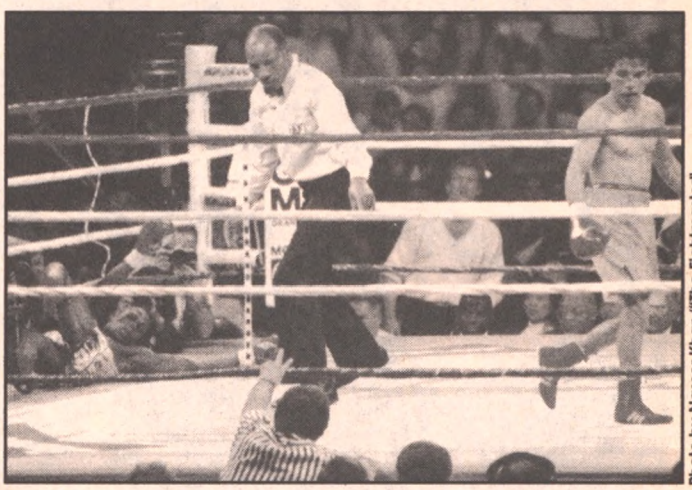


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

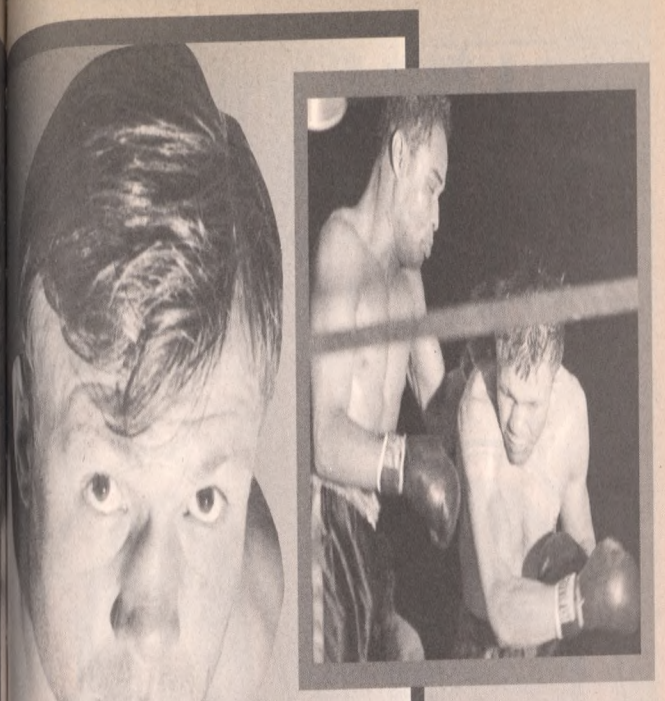
A tougher opponent than expected, Tejedor finally fell in the last 10 seconds of the 12th round. He managed to beat the count of referee Richard Steele, and Romero settled for a unanimous decision victory.

The Death Of A Lightweight Legend

LOU AMBERS

1913-1995

Ambers (left) fought his idol and former employer, triple-crown champion Tony Canzoneri, three times, winning twice. The hall of famers fought during the lightweight division's golden age.



There have been few title fights as savage as Ambers' brawls with Henry Armstrong. The punches came by the dozen, with each legendary lightweight winning once. When Ambers regained the title (below), he paid a hefty toll.

By Steve Farhood

Fourteen years ago, Lou Ambers, who learned how to box in the basement of a church, told THE RING, "I've said a prayer every day since 1932, and I've always stayed faithful to my religion. And when I die and I see the good old man up there, he'll say, 'Lou, how

...out of a boy were you?' I'll say, 'Perfect,' and he'll say, 'Lou, down you go!'"

Ambers never took himself very seriously, so in the wake of his death on April 24 in Phoenix, historians were asked to do just that. And the consensus was that "The Herkimer Hurricane," who died at age 81 of complications from a stroke, was one of the finest lightweights, if not one of the best fighters, of all-time.

Sadly, Ambers' death went virtually unreported. According to Margaret Ambers, his wife of 55 years, only newspapers in Herkimer (in upstate New York), Utica, and Syracuse ran features. In Phoenix, where the Ambers have lived since 1948, the papers acknowledged his passing with only a small obituary.

"Lou had several minor strokes earlier this year, then he had a major one three weeks before he died," said Margaret. "He was paralyzed, but he fought for his life with the same courage and will he showed in the ring."

***

Luigi Guiseppe D'Ambrosio was born on November 8, 1913, in the small town of Herkimer, New York. He was one of 10 children, and The Great Depression destroyed whatever financial security his father had established. The teenaged Ambers had a burning desire to do two things: pay his family's bills and fight.

In *In This Corner ...* , he described himself as "a bad boy."

"I had a lot of trouble," Ambers said. "I'd fight with everybody. I don't know what made me. I wanted to fight. I'd tell my friend, 'Go over there. Pick a fight with that fellow.' And he'd go pick a fight with him. Then I'd go and I'd say, 'What are you trying to pick on a little

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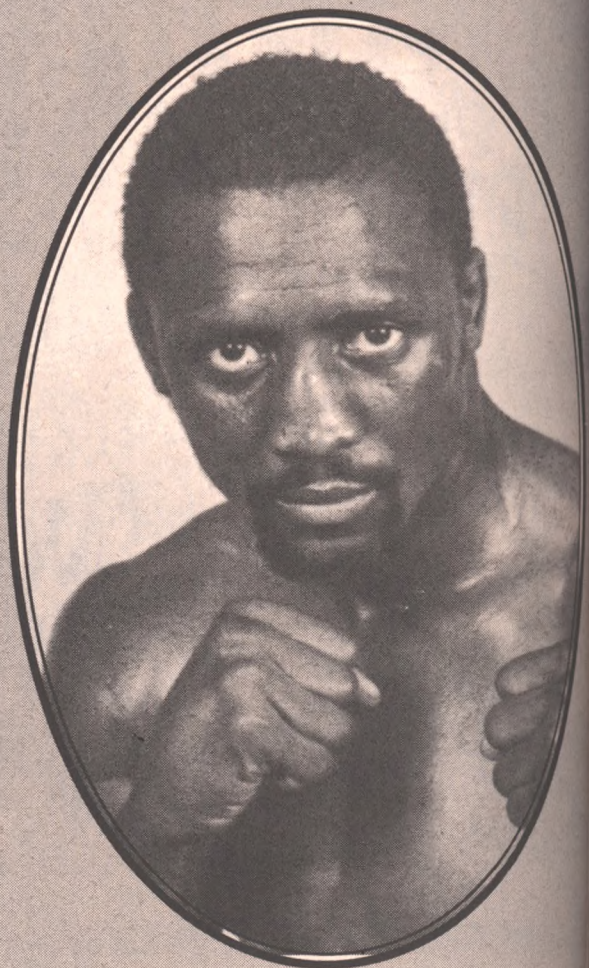
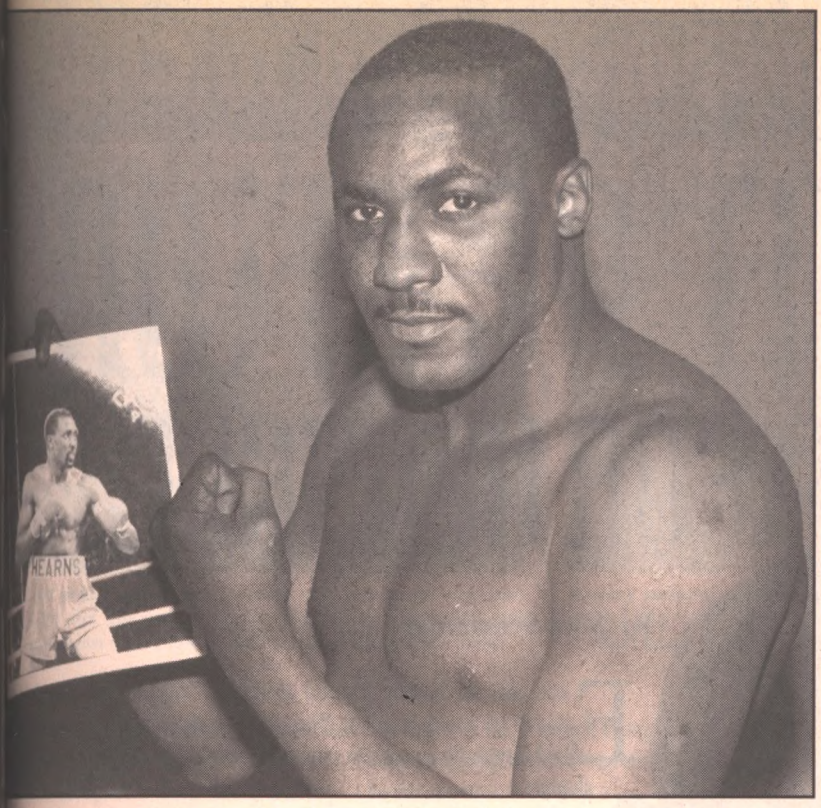
WHAT IF...



MIKE McCALLUM vs. THOMAS HEARNS



McCallum dreamed about a fight with his former stablemate. Hearns, who became a household name, had the recognition and status that was sought by "The Bodysnatcher."

ost of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, ries, and promotional concerns, the fights most want to see—the fights that could ge history—sometimes fail to materialize. en that happens, we're left with our imagina- which makes for never-ending conjecture delightful debate.

With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's fore- computer programmer, and TKO fessional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, RING has once again decided to play chmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with THE RING All-Time Computer Tournament.")

The computer program runs in compiled SIC and consists of several thousand lines of e. More than two-dozen routines and sub-rou- s cross-check such factors as ring position, the ers' physical condition, accumulated dam- status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are stantly monitored during a given fight.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of n matchups, fights that could have taken e but never did. His program considers e than 100 variables, and he runs the chups through his computer 20 times each. t if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? at if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis llo? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Patterson? Here are some of the answers.

THE WAY IT WAS

Early in his career, it appeared as if Mike McCallum would gain more notoriety for his frequent managerial problems than recognition for his performances in the squared circle.

McCallum had split with his manager, New York City lawyer Joe Giannini, citing Giannini's inability to get him top money and top opponents. Giannini's side of the story, not surprisingly, was different. "I brought that kid to number four in the world," he said in late-1982, "and I got stabbed in the back for it."

Giannini's comments were mild compared to those of McCallum's former trainer, Don Turner, who called the fighter a dog, a coward, and a punk—in no particular order—after he and McCallum parted company. McCallum, who had earned the trainer's wrath by rejecting a fight against middleweight Sugar Ray Seales, dismissed Turner as a loudmouth. When asked why he hadn't wanted to fight Seales, McCallum responded, "Why should I fight a 160-pounder? He's a full-fledged middleweight and he's not a money fight. What's the point? I'm happy where I am."

Where he was was with Emanuel Steward and the famed Kronk gym. McCallum's career appeared to be on the right track when Steward matched him against southpaw Ayub Kalule. McCallum dominated the former WBA champion, stopping him in seven rounds to earn a num-

(Continued on page 58)

Hearns and Emanuel Steward have been a team for most of "The Hit Man's" career. When Steward arranged a Hearns-Roberto Duran fight, McCallum felt slighted and left the Kronk gym.

When The Whispers Turned To Cheers

VINCENT PETTWAY STANDS UP FOR HIMSELF

By John Scheinman

Even once he became a world champion, Vincent Pettway battled self-doubt. He couldn't help it. The whispers, the talk, were always about his inability to take it on the chin when a boxing match deteriorated into a slugfest.

George Leach, Javier Suazo, Victor Davis, and Stephan Johnson—these are the men who have knocked out Pettway. Good fighters, all, but not the kind that deserve the right to walk around boasting they've once crushed a world champion.

So even though Pettway hadn't been beaten since 1990, and even after he captured the IBF junior middleweight title last September by destroying Gianfranco Rosi in four rounds, the whispers followed him.

"I don't pride myself on taking a punch," he

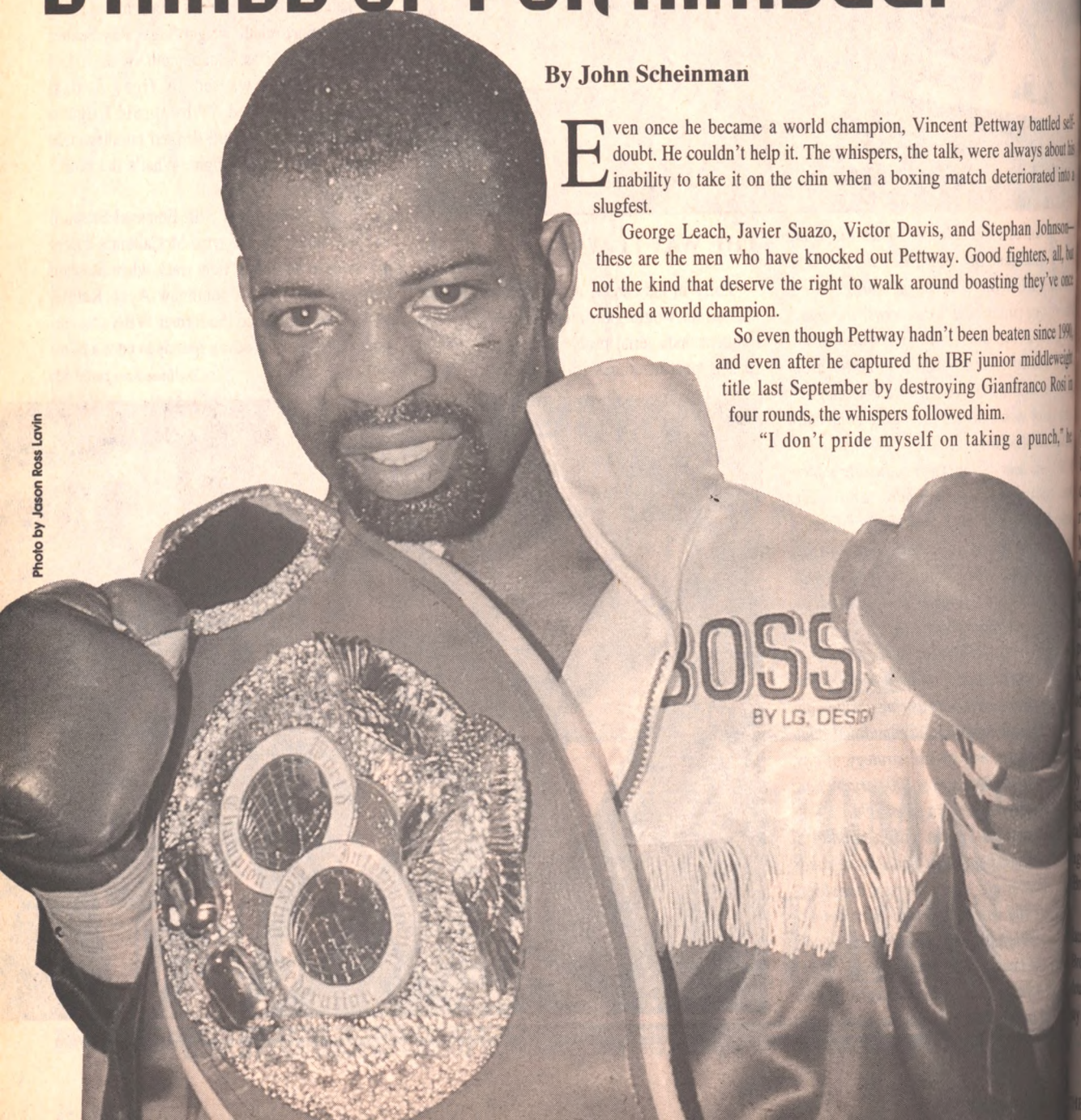


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

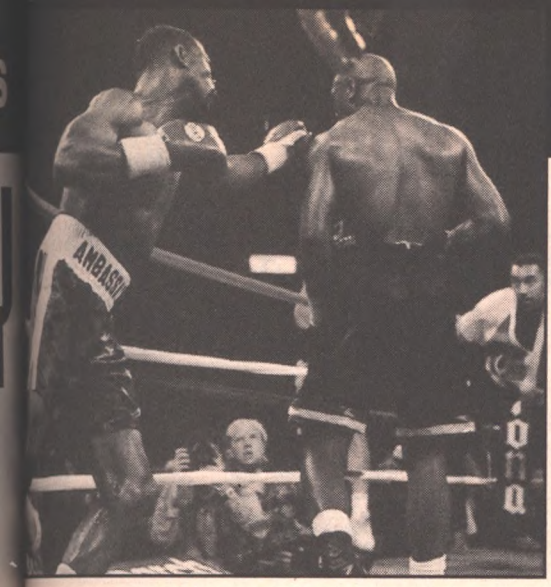


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

the bell ending round five, Pettway ran across the ring and another shot. The intensity never wavered in a bout that will consideration when Fight of the Year nominations are made.

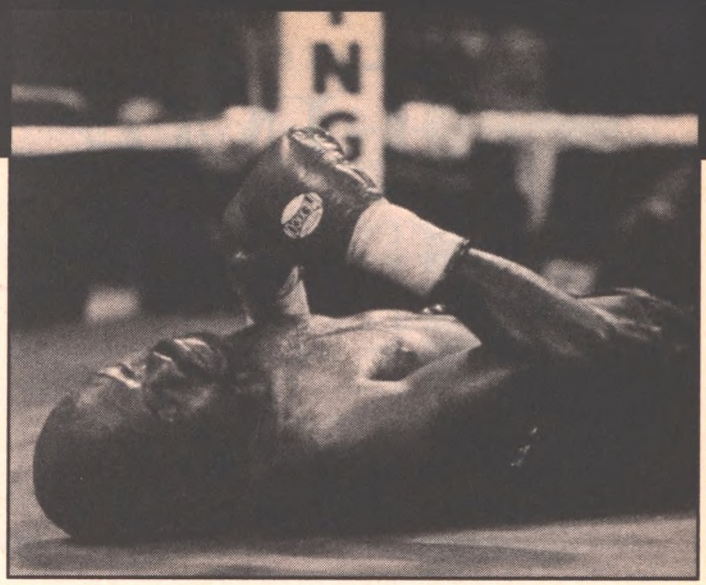


Photo by Will Hart/Showtime

Having suffered the first knockout of a successful 47-bout career, Brown chilled ringsiders by continuing to move his hands as if shadowboxing. The former champion says he will continue to fight on.

"I still want my faculties in order when I the game."

when he signed to face heavy-handed time former world champion Simon the whispers got only louder.

April 29, before a crowd of 7,052 at the Arena and a Showtime television audi- Pettway demanded a little silence. It came form of wild cheering and huge roars of

a brawl destined to vie for Fight of the honors, the 29-year-old Pettway, 152¼, stown, Maryland, survived two knock- then landed a stunning hook in the sixth to take out Brown, 154, Mt. Airy, and retain the title for the first time. nch, which came over the top of a hard right, left Brown flat on his back and scious. He eerily continued to throw es at phantoms while referee Ray yer (USA) counted over him. The time nockout was 2:07.

a moment, people couldn't help but out Gerald McClellan, but Brown quick- to and was helped to a stool and admin- xygen. He was taken to a nearby hospi- bservation and released. Despite the sav- the knockout, the first of his career, said he would continue his career.

Pettway, if beating Rosi was the rocket twice getting off the canvas to knock out was the walk on the moon. Pettway's s and detractors should have little left to the way he got through this one.

oled a lot of people," Pettway said after the fight. "A lot of people thought Simon would come in and hit me with one shot and that would be the end of it.

"I never had a doubt in myself, but people were trying to put the doubts there. These are people who had been following me for a while. They were like, 'You can beat so-and-so, but Simon Brown? I don't know.'"

Pettway's trainer, 77-year-old Baltimore legend Mack Lewis, has been training the fighter since the champion's Kid Gloves days. Lewis has a simple motto: "There ain't no man living who can't be knocked out." He says if anyone is hit in one of five places—either side of the chin, under the ear lobes, or in the solar plexus, "he'll go out."

So Lewis didn't believe any of Pettway's prior knockouts would have any bearing on the fight with Brown. And when he, too, started getting told otherwise, he began to hang up the phone on people.

"A lot of people said, 'Why did you take a fight like that?'" he said. "But I feel if you're a world champion, you should be able to fight anybody.

"Everybody said that because Pettway got stopped a few times, he couldn't take a punch. Joe Louis got stopped, why can't Pettway get stopped?"

The first round against Brown looked like Pettway might live up to his negative billing. Whenever Brown got inside, Pettway cautiously tied him up. Brown threw a few chopping punches and muscled in the clinches, but did little more. Then, with 24 seconds remaining, Brown landed a hook to the temple that wobbled Pettway. A followup left sent the champion toppling onto his left side.

Pettway popped up shaking, and for a moment it looked like the whispers were truths. But Pettway lasted, even landing a hard right when Brown moved in moments before the bell. Still, the end seemed a matter of time. Pettway and Lewis, however, did not panic.

"I came back to the corner," Pettway recalled, and my trainer said, 'You're all right.' I said, 'Okay, Mr. Mack.'"

(Continued on page 61)

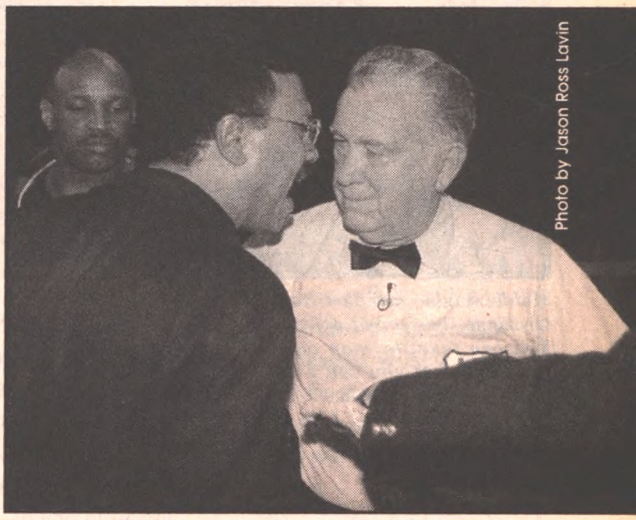


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Referee Ray Klingmeyer was lenient to the point where many, including Brown's manager, Carl King, felt he had let the fight slip out of control, especially in the final round.

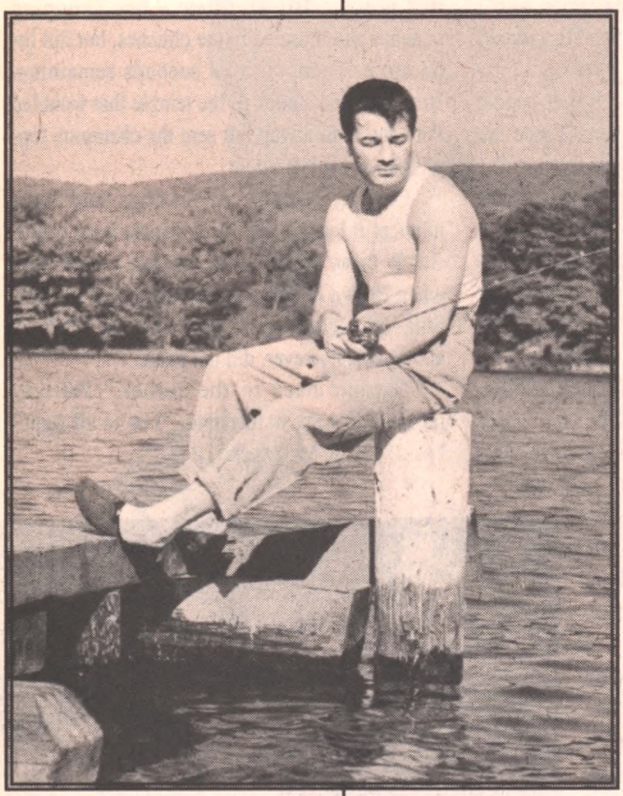
By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

"WHAT'S THAT STINK?"

(May 1948)

Before Mike Tyson and Riddick Bowe, there was Rocky Graziano. The three of them have one common denominator: Brooklyn, New York. And like they say, "You can take the kid out of Brooklyn, but you can't take Brooklyn out of the kid."



Middleweight champion Rocky Graziano, bored and dejected. You can take the man out of Brooklyn, but you can't take Brooklyn out of the man.

To Graziano, the musty inner-city gymnasiums, like Stillman's and Gleason's and the CYO, was a staff of life, like water and pasta. Rocky was always at home in any city gym, and it was in those seedy, sweat-and-blood factories that he worked his hard-as-nails body into a destructive fighting machine ... until he hit the big-time.

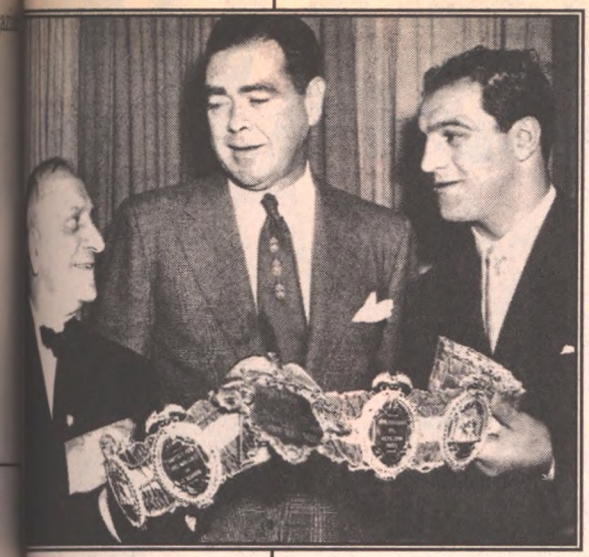
They told Rocky champions don't share gyms with six-round fighters. Champs have their *own* training camps. Champs have private quarters, with their own chefs. Training camps are out in the country, where there are lakes and green grass and trees. Lots of trees. The only trees Rocky ever saw were in the movie *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*.

So Rocky was forced to trade his beloved city gyms for the solitude of the country. He hated every minute of it. His personality changed. His trainer, the great Whitey Bimstein, having lived through such situations many times before, was convinced it was the abrupt change in smells that was altering Rocky's moods. So wily Whitey did what he had done with other fighters in similar circumstances. To reproduce that unique, obnoxious city gym odor, he strung ring-used togs on clothes lines in Rocky's living quarters. Graziano's manager, little Irving Cohen, wondered, but never asked, why the laundry bills were so low.

This picture showing a dejected, thoroughly bored Graziano staring at the end of a fishing line was set up by a *Life* photographer at the middleweight champion's training camp high in the Catskill Mountains at Ellenville, New York, where he trained for his title defense against Tony Zale. "Nothing I tried got him to show any emotion, to look or act like he was alive," the photographer would later complain. "'Make believe you just caught a big fish,' I yelled. Rocky stared back at me, shook his head a little, and snapped, 'You gotta be kidding.' Then he flipped the fishing line, rod, reel and all, into the lake and jogged back to his cabin without saying another word. So this was the only shot I got of him at the lake."

One day, Jack Haley, a fellow Brooklynite who supposedly had a financial interest in Graziano, used a tired, old gag in hopes of snapping Rocky out of his depression. "What's that stink around here?" Haley asked the fighter. When Rocky ignored him, Haley didn't know what to do. So after a few seconds he answered his own question with a strained laugh. "I know," he bellowed. "It's the fresh air."

The gag fell as flat as Graziano when Zale pole-axed him a few weeks later in the third round of their torrid brawl in Newark, New Jersey, leaving Rocky a quivering wreck groping on the canvas, the *former* middleweight champion of the world.



yweight champion Rocky iano accepts THE RING *belt magazine founder and pub- Nat Fleischer as promoter orris watches.*

RING BELT NUMBER 160

(October 31, 1953)

Eleven months after he won the heavyweight championship, Rocky Marciano, with traditional humility, accepted THE RING's belt, emblematic of boxing's most prestigious prize, from THE RING's founder and publisher, Nat Fleischer, as Rocky's promoter, big Jim Norris, beamed his approval. Said Fleischer as he addressed the SRO crowd packed into Al & Dick's popular New York City steak house for the big event, "I've had the great honor of participating in this ceremony many times before, 159 times, to be precise. Yes, this is my 160th championship belt awarded since the magazine was born 31 years ago." As Fleischer handed the eight-paneled trophy to the undefeated heavyweight king, he added, "And never was there a man more deserving of this honor than Rocky Marciano."

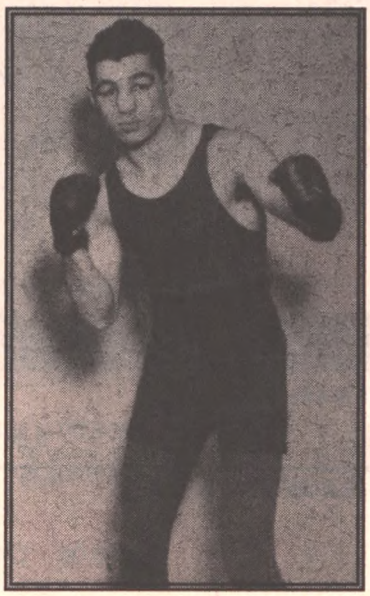
Although it was recipient Marciano who humbly expressed his gratitude, as was rightfully expected, both Fleischer and Norris should have, but didn't, let loose a few thank-you-Rockys of their own. After all, it had been Rocky's dynamic magnetism that had yanked boxing out of its doldrums, providing Norris' International Boxing Club with a charismatic headliner the equal of Dempsey and Louis. As for Fleischer and his beloved magazine, never before had business been so good.

WILLIE WOULD HAVE BEEN SO HAPPY

(March 19, 1995)

At a recent auction of boxing memorabilia sted by Superior Galleries in Beverly Hills, lifornia, a 5 x 7 autographed photo was knocked wn for $25. The bold, inked inscription read, Willie Jackson, April 25, 1918." For me, seeing illie's name again after so many years brought ck a lot of memories. Most of them tragic.

The last time I saw Willie was in the early- s, when he hobbled from loft to loft in New rk City's bustling garment district trying to sur- e by selling paper and twine to the maze of nufacturers that churned out three-quarters of world's production of ready-to-wear clothing. st of the buildings towered 15 or 20 stories ve the jammed sidewalks of this jungle within ngle. But Willie always used the fire stairways, ging his samples over his bent back because he n't trust elevators. His eyes didn't focus, and he d problems reading even the bold floor numbers the top of each stairwell. His head swayed from side to side, and he dn't put more than four words together that made any sense.



Willie Jackson in his prime, in March 1921

There is a devastating price that must be paid for an extended prize r career, with most of the bouts having come against world-class , some of whom are still rated among the greatest of all-time. ack time for Willie Jackson had come and gone.

But Willie had enjoyed more than his fair share of glory days during turbulent career (1913-1922). He had more than held his own against stalwarts as Lew Tendler, Charley White, Rocky Kansas, and my Dundee. The combination of relentless ferocity and Jewish heritage made Jackson one of promoter Tex Rickard's most magnetic attractions at Madison Square Garden. In eight Garden blockbusters, Willie was credited with luring a stunning $480,000 through the turnstiles, a remarkable accomplishment at the time.

Jackson's chin was a memorable chunk of concrete, having been tested by an array of famous sluggers in more than 100 battles. Charley White, probably the greatest left hook artist of all-time, caught Willie with his specialty one February night in 1922, and Jackson hardly blinked. The next day, the *New York Post* headlined its coverage, "Knockout-proof Jackson ... "

Willie was indeed knockout-proof—until his last fight. That one and only blot on his record was really the cumulative effect of those thousands of head shots Willie had seemingly absorbed all those years, not the right hand a youngster named Joe Shugrue exploded on his chin in the 10th round on December 4, 1922. That punch accomplished something nobody had ever done: put Willie Jackson down and out.

We'd like to believe that Willie's spirit was at that auction in Beverly Hills last March. That he heard the auctioneer's hammer slam as he yelled, "Sold for 25 dollars," and then passed Willie's autographed picture to an assistant for delivery to the successful bidder. Willie would surely have been thrilled: "Just think of it—somebody paying 25 bucks for my picture. What in hell was I doing hustling paper and twine in the garment district?"

I wonder if the guy who bought that picture realizes what a bargain he got. But if he wants to sell it, I'll give him $100.

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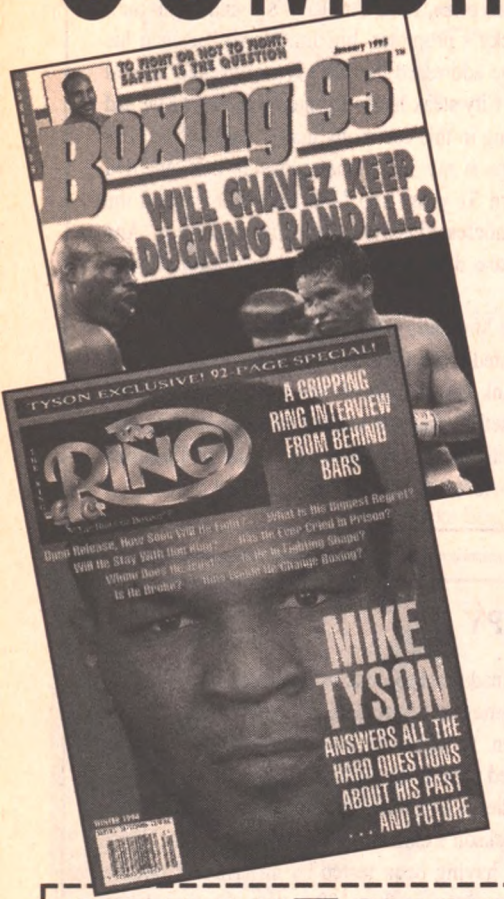

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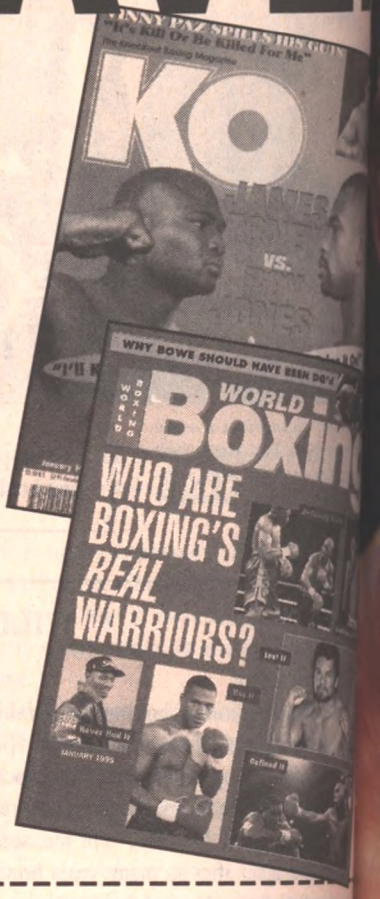

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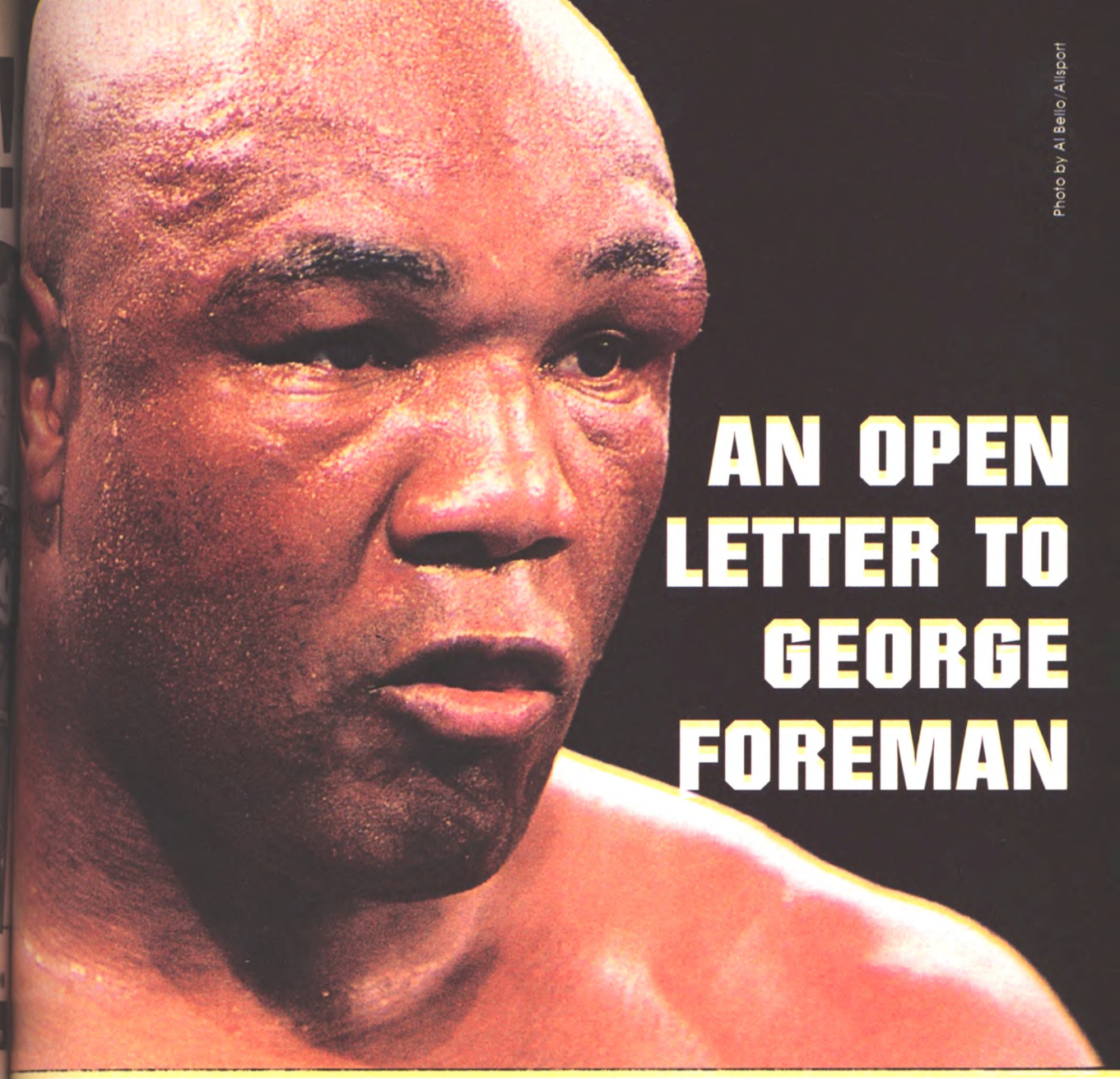


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

AN OPEN LETTER TO GEORGE FOREMAN

ou Owe It To Yourself (And Boxing) To et Out Now!

George,

w's the eye? The last time I saw you, during the postfight interview ving the Axel Schulz fight, the swollen area around your left eye pro- d so far, the sunglasses you wore to camouflage the damage were ed on the very tip of your nose. It's either time for a bigger pair of s or easier opponents.

know lumps and bumps are part of the job, and you've certainly d worse in the past, especially after the Alex Stewart fight. But aren't arting to worry that pretty soon you won't be able to see well enough nt the number of zeros on your paycheck?

efore you begin to think I'm one of those bleeding-heart media wimps who calls for mandatory retirement age, let me assure you that I support the right of every boxer, regardless of age, to work at his profession until he reaches a point where his health is in jeopardy. And, George, as much as it pains me to say it, I think you've reached that point. Maybe even gone past it.

If the Schulz fight proved anything, it's that there are no soft touches anymore. Schulz was hand-picked. By *you*! He was supposed to be a quick snack, involving no more effort than a trip to Burger King. But there you were, at the end of 12 grueling rounds, wheezing like an asthmatic brontosaurus and looking like Herr Schulz had driven a Volkswagen over your head. I bet this wasn't the finish you had envisioned when Schulz was selected over such luminaries as Lou Savarese and Joe Hipp.

Schulz found the painfully slow Foreman easy to hit, but he lacked the power needed to put the champion down. While undeserving of a shot at the [illegible] the German, unlike most heavyweights, fought with intelligence and a high level of energy. It was the second loss of Schulz' career.

I won't dwell too long on the shameful majority decision that allowed you to retain the IBF title. I'm sure you've already heard about the phone-in poll on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights* the following week. But in case you haven't, callers favored Schulz by a whopping margin of 11,446 to 2,037. And remember, George, these were the same folks who, in a previous USA poll, had selected you as the man they'd most like to see fight Mike Tyson. These are your fans, and they thought you got your butt kicked.

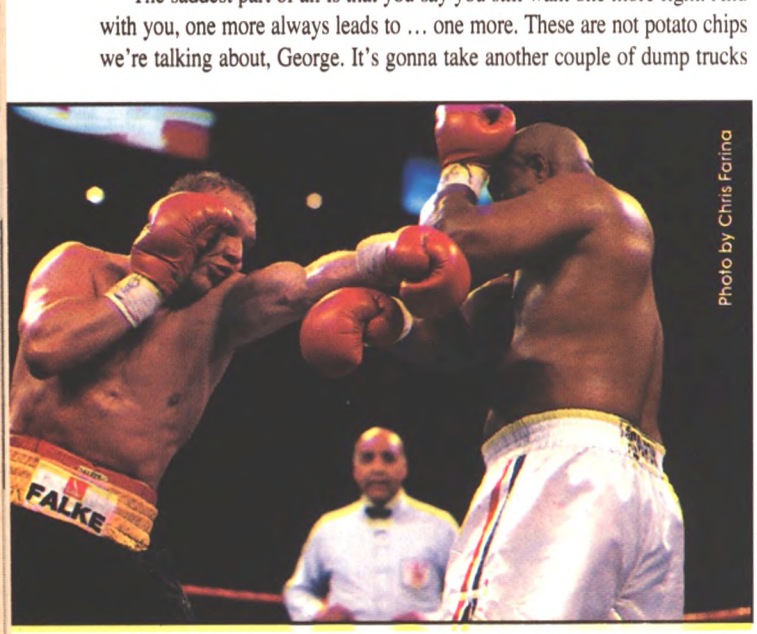
The saddest part of all is that you say you still want one more fight. And with you, one more always leads to ... one more. These are not potato chips we're talking about, George. It's gonna take another couple of dump trucks full of high-cholesterol snacks to fatally clog your arteries. But at your [illegible] with the accumulative effect of 78 professional fights weighing heavily [illegible] you, just one more itsy-bitsy bout could very well end in tragedy.

Sure, it's tempting to have a farewell fight, to hear the crowd chant your name one last time. But think about the possible price tag that [illegible] with such a precarious ego massage. Another bruised and bloated [illegible] might be the least of it. While I've taken literary license in the past [illegible] compared you to Paul Bunyan and John Henry, don't believe everything you read. You're not really a mythical figure, capable of defying the [illegible] of nature. An extraordinary physical specimen to be sure, but flesh [illegible] blood just the same, and, in the final analysis, just as susceptible to [illegible] passage of time as the rest of us.

And who are you going to fight, anyway? Tyson obviously has [illegible] own itinerary, and thankfully, you're not a part of it. Prior to the Schulz fight, I endorsed the concept of a Foreman-Tyson showdown. But not [illegible] more. If that had been "Iron Mike" inside the ring with you, and [illegible] Schulz, I might be writing an obituary instead of an open letter.

A rematch with Schulz? A sure-fire turnstile spinner in Germany, but [illegible] might actually give him the decision this time. More of Michael Moore. Hey, maybe he'll stand there like a dummy a second time and let you [illegible] him. But don't count on it. Riddick Bowe? Oliver McCall? Bruce Seldon? No, you're better off dipping even deeper into the barrel. After all, Schulz was considered a no-hoper going in, and look what he did to you. Still, regardless of how low you are prepared to stoop, an element of danger remains.

There's an additional problem that goes along with being George Foreman. Just because you are who you are, referees are reluctant to stop a fight when you're getting butchered. The Stewart fight was an example of that. Anyone other than you in the ring with Stewart that night would have been ruled a TKO loser. Sure, the leeway afforded you in that particular fight kept your career alive and led, three fights later, to your title-winning [illegible]



As the fight progressed, an emboldened Schulz realized it wasn't necessary for him to run from Big George. Schulz absorbed his share of punches, including a nasty scalp cut, but never seemed in serious danger.

FOREMAN, BUT NOT FOREMOST

It's always an uphill battle trying to beat a living legend, but n three guys with sharp pencils and dull eyesights are helping , it's damn near impossible. This was the lesson Axel Schulz med when the judges permitted IBF heavyweight champion orge Foreman to retain the title via 12-round majority decision at MGM Grand.

As you recall, this was supposed to be gimme for the 46-year- Foreman, a $10-million gym workout. But the much-maligned eman challenger—Schulz and strudel were deemed analogous in week leading up to the fight—proved slightly better than adver- ed. And in this particular case, slightly better was enough to ke a big difference.

Foreman, 256, Houston, Texas, was clearly not as well-condi- ned or as finely focused as he was when he won the title with a e-punch knockout of Michael Moorer last November. Schulz, on other hand, was not only in top shape, but he came equipped h an intelligent fight plan.

Schulz, 221, Frankfurt-Oder, Germany, circled to his right, and ay from Foreman's crushing right hand. And, unlike Moorer, he er lost his concentration. Not that he escaped unscathed. Big orge periodically rammed home punishing jabs, chopped away h his right, and occasionally beat his 26-year-old rival's ribs h booming hooks. Nonetheless, the challenger showed a stout n, plenty of gumption, and the ability to keep his wits about him en after fielding a good shot.

Schulz, who suffered a scalp cut in the fourth, wasn't content to rvive. He scored frequently with crisp rights, and by the seventh nd the area over Foreman's left eye had been transformed into a otesque goose egg. Foreman broke though with a hard right ppercut in the eighth, but Schulz wasn't intimidated, and he swered back with an eye-catching flurry before the bell.

Schulz, 21-2-1 (10), continued his impressive work in the ninth d 10th, building what appeared to be a comfortable lead. reman, 74-4 (68), sucked it up and staged a big rally in the 11th, ring which a portion of the fans began a chant of "USA!" Schulz g tough, however, and regained control in the 12th.

Perhaps the saddest part of all was that nobody seemed especial- shocked when the judges socked it to Schulz much harder than reman had. Flawed decisions have practically become the norm in s Vegas, and this one was no exception. Both Keith MacDonald d Jerry Roth scored 115-113 for Foreman, while Chuck Giampa d it 114-114. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING saw it r Schulz by 116-114. The referee was Joe Cortez (USA).

"He ran; you don't give a fighter a championship for running," id Foreman.

"If he's really the big champion I think he is, he will give me a match in Germany," said Schulz.

The fight was promoted by Top Rank, televised by HBO, and nessed live by 11,111 paying customers and three myopic dges.

—NC

Photo by Tom Casino/HBO

Foreman landed many more punches than he had against Michael Moorer. But the fans expecting another miraculous one-punch knockout were disappointed. In fact, Foreman was lucky to keep the title.

with Moorer. But that same leeway, in a fight where you are getting your brain cells scrambled, could cost you more than a boxing title. Much more.

For you and so many others, fighting is a form of instant gratification. But the others aren't 46 years old. What about the after-effects, 10 years down the road? The most insidious thing about the damage a fighter takes in the ring is that it frequently doesn't manifest itself until several years after retirement. A boxer can hang up his gloves, seemingly in the best of health, then, as the years go by, begin to show signs of boxing-related brain injury. Slurred speech and a staggering gait are all too common in fighters who supposedly knew when to quit.

Boxing is rife with great heroes who have stayed on past the point of no return, but no case is more heartbreaking than that of Muhammad Ali. One of the great ironies of your comeback was that you were able to perform at such a high level when the man who handed you your most devastating defeat was walking around like a zombie. Simply stated, George, we don't want you to end up the same way.

Forget your personal considerations for a moment and look at the big picture. As you've proclaimed many times, boxing has given you everything you have—fame, fortune, and the adulation of millions. It's taken you around the world, made George a household name, and served as your entree to the larger world of entertainment and commercial endorsements. And it's been a two-way street; over the course of your career, you've provided fans with many wonderful moments.

But now it's time to give back to the sport in a radically different way. Now it's time to save us the sad sight of another of our icons stumbling toward oblivion on feet of clay.

George, if you really love the sport as much as you claim, give back by getting out. You owe it to both yourself and boxing.

Sincerely yours,

Nigel Collins
Managing Editor

P.S. Still friends? ■

BONA FIDE SUPERSTAR

Oscar Is The Boxer Of The '90s

By Bernard Fernandez

Great promoters, by definition, are men of vision. They are able to take the long view and predict what people want before they know they want it.

And so it is for pugilistic prophet Bob Arum, who can see a day, probably years down the road, when boxing fans will want nothing so much as a matchup of Oscar De La Hoya, by then filled out to a robust 160 pounds and well on his way to his stated goal of six world championships in six weight classifications, and Dana Rosenblatt. De La Hoya, the only American gold medalist in boxing at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, presumably will have expanded his already considerable appeal among Hispanic and Anglo fans, and Rosenblatt will have proven himself a worthy successor to such great Jewish fighters as Benny Leonard and Barney Ross. Pay-per-view subscriptions in record numbers, to Arum's way of thinking, almost certainly will be ordered for a superfight in which so many ethnic bases are touched.

It took De La Hoya less than five minutes to stop defending IBF lightweight champion and Los Angeles rival Rafael Ruelas. The victory elevated De La Hoya to legitimate superstar status.

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport

Shortly after De La Hoya solidified his claim to being the world's best lightweight with a two-round blowout of IBF champion Rafael Ruelas at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, and Rosenblatt retained that little bauble known as the WBC Continental-Americas middleweight title with an emphatic one-punch knockout of Chad Parker on the undercard, Arum allowed himself the luxury of thinking out loud.

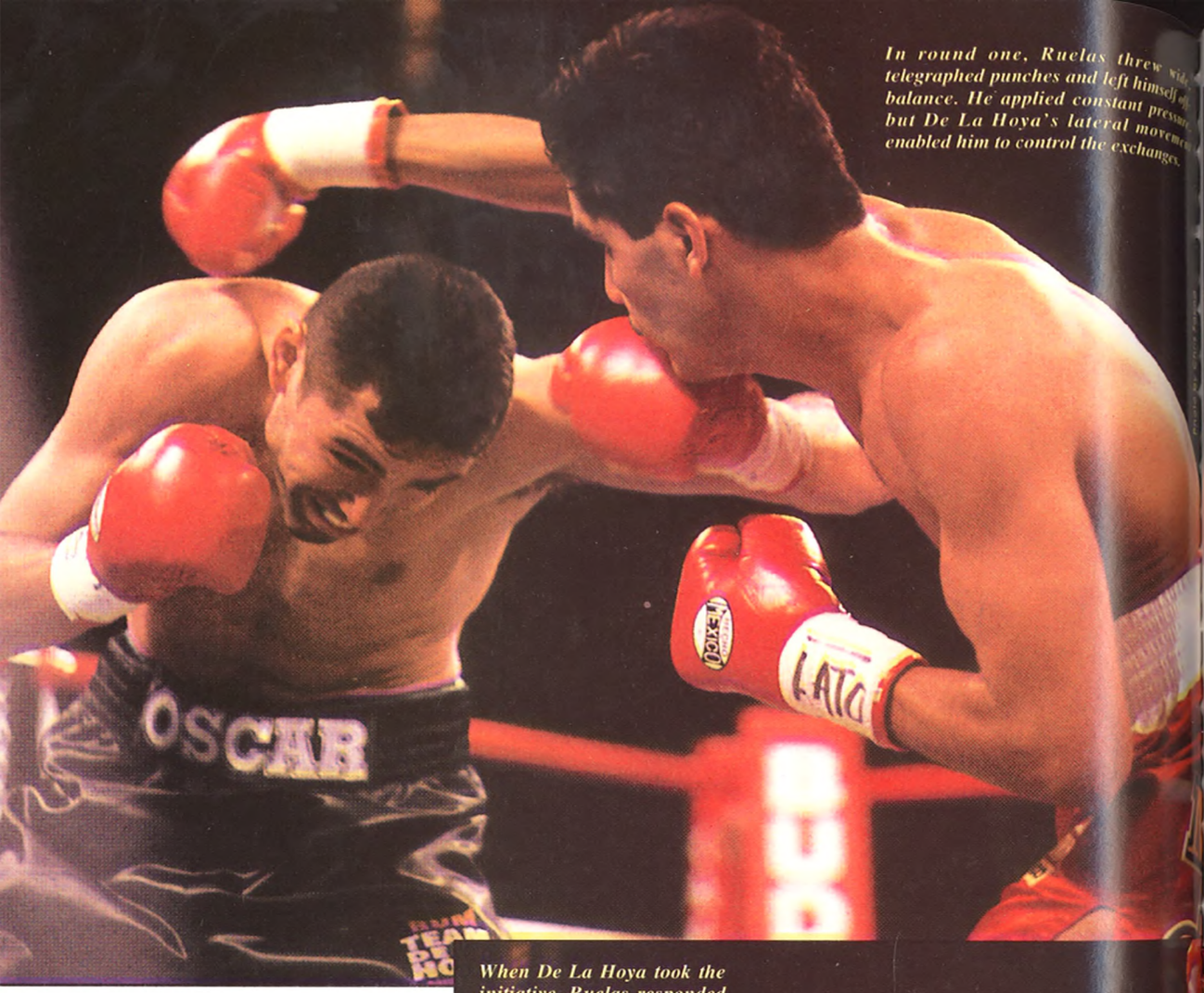
"The dream fight for the biggest money of all-time is Oscar and Rosenblatt," Arum said with the enthusiasm of P.T. Barnum announcing the first American tour under his promotional banner by Tom Thumb or Jumbo the Elephant. "That's what I think about when I go to sleep at night."

Not everyone's dreams are made of this, of course. But only a visionary like Arum is capable of taking a leap of faith large enough to project Rosenblatt, a southpaw with commendable skills, as a latter-day melding of Benny Leonard and Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

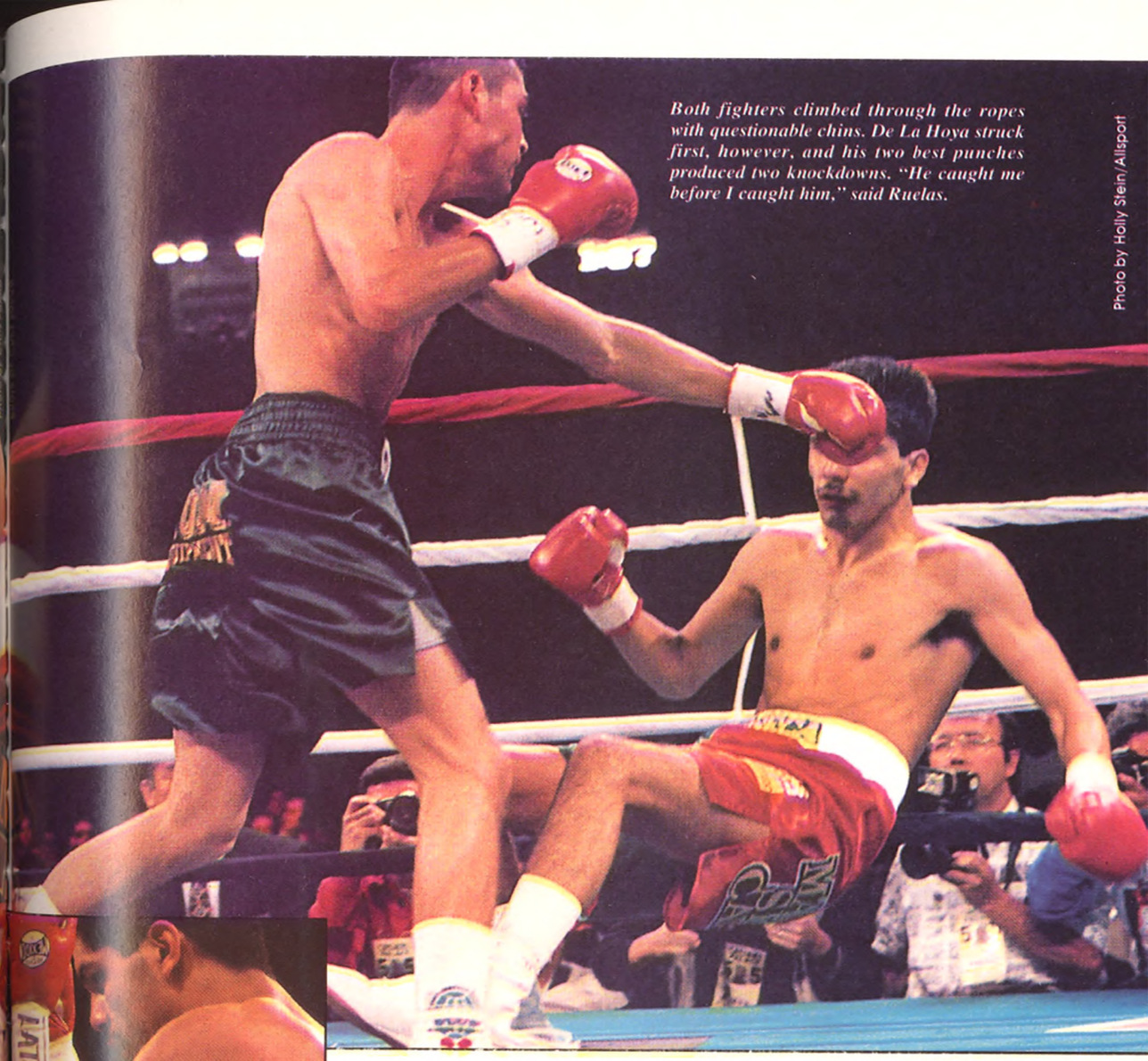
No one, however, can say that Arum is a recent jumper onto the De La Hoya bandwagon. Nearly everyone predicted great things for "The Golden Boy" since—and in many cases, before—he became the Olympic 132-pound champion by decisioning Germany's Marco Rudolph. And no one was heaping out praise in larger doses than Arum, who figured De La Hoya's fluency in English and Spanish, matinee-idol good looks, appealing personality, and, oh, yes, vast array of ring abilities made for a box office attraction of unfathomable dimensions.

"He's got it all going for him right now," Arum said early in De La Hoya's professional career. "The Olympic thing, the punch, the looks: The package is good. He looks special, don't you think? I think he's going to be bigger than Sugar Ray Leonard or Marvin Hagler ... he'll be the biggest in boxing history, except for Ali."

Oscar the (Money) Pouch has been the basis of many comparisons, not all of them as glowing as those outlined by Arum. Several actual or would-be managers have told tales of an ungrateful and callous lout, a Judas in padded gloves whose loyalty can be bought

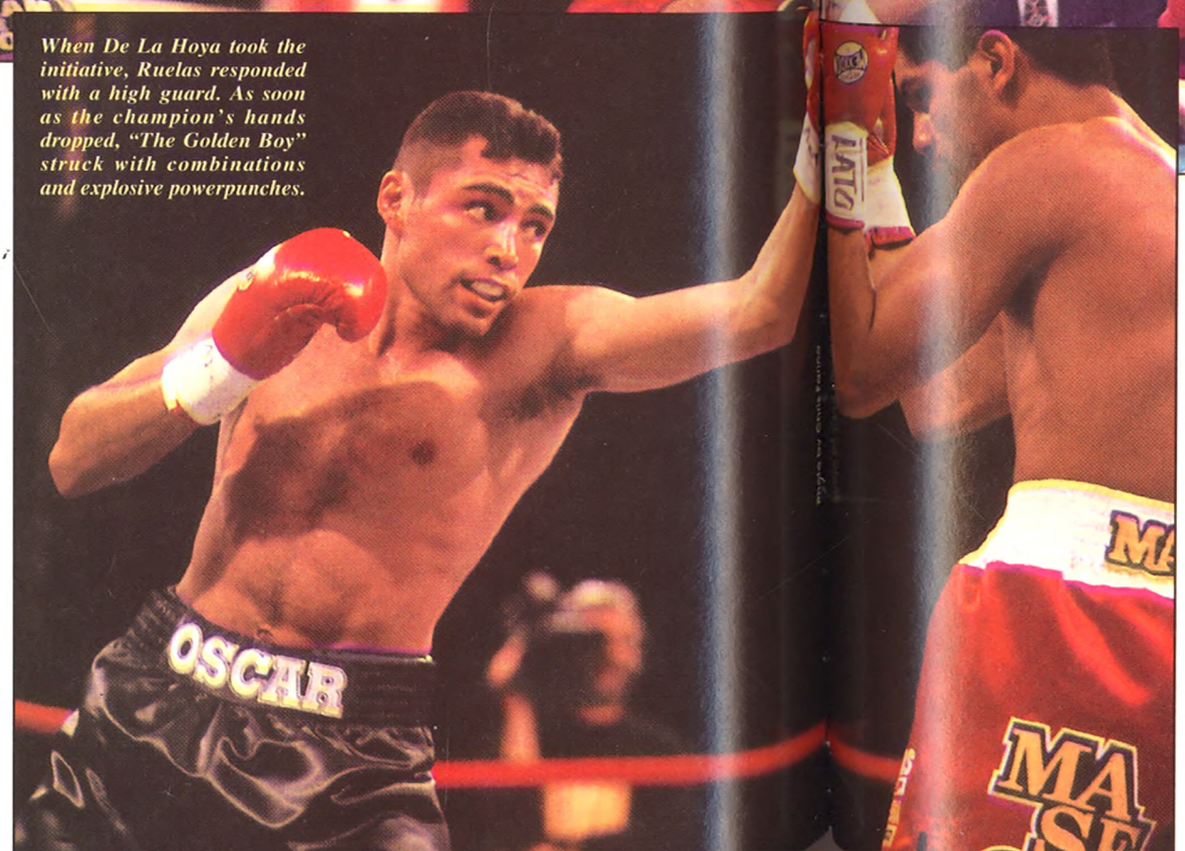


In round one, Ruelas threw wide, telegraphed punches and left himself off balance. He applied constant pressure, but De La Hoya's lateral movement enabled him to control the exchanges.



Both fighters climbed through the ropes with questionable chins. De La Hoya struck first, however, and his two best punches produced two knockdowns. "He caught me before I caught him," said Ruelas.

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport



When De La Hoya took the initiative, Ruelas responded with a high guard. As soon as the champion's hands dropped, "The Golden Boy" struck with combinations and explosive powerpunches.

by whomever brings the largest suitcase filled with high-denomination currency. Still others point to flash-knockdowns suffered against the undistinguished likes of Narciso Valenzuela and Giorgio Campanella and recall the wasted potential of Paul Gonzales, the 1984 Olympic champion who, like De La Hoya, was a product of the East L.A. barrio. Gonzales' pro career never came close to living up to the impossibly high expectations set by others. Talent is one thing, but it takes an especially strong individual, a Muhammad Ali or a Michael Jordan, to flourish under the hot glare of a spotlight that never shuts off.

Recalling their sparring sessions before De La Hoya went to Barcelona, Ruelas figured his mental toughness, hewn by an up-by-the-bootstraps approach to life and boxing, would prove the difference once the punches started flying for real.

"I learned he's not very strong up here," said Ruelas, tapping his heart. "I learned that he doesn't like pressure, which is what he's going to get. He's always gotten it from me, and he'll get it again. Things came a lot easier for him. Maybe they came too quickly, too sudden.

"People also say Oscar's chin is questionable. His chin is not questionable. It's already been shown his chin is not the greatest. When he went down from those guys who can't punch, it removed the question."

Ruelas is normally the most gracious of fighters, as incapable of snarling insults as he is of carrying on a conversation in, say, Mandarin Chinese. But there has always been something about Oscar that has raised his hackles. It might have been something to do with irritation at the red carpet that has been put down since the beginning for De La Hoya, who was paid $75,000 for his first pro bout. That's a rate slightly in excess of the $400 Ruelas, then 17, received for his pro debut in 1989.

Class envy, like racial, ethnic, national, and geographical differences, is the backdrop for the most widely anticipated fights. Fans, and often the fighters themselves, are compelled to draw a line that neatly separates protagonists. Boxing's tension is derived from the anticipation of one man crossing that line and operating successfully in his opponent's zone.

On the surface, the pairing of De La Hoya and Ruelas appeared to lack any such conflict. De La Hoya, 22, is an American citizen of Mexican descent; Ruelas, 24, is a green card-carrying Mexican national who has lived in the USA since age seven. With Las Vegas hotels jammed with Mexican and Mexican-American tourists who made the fight the focal point of a weekend *Cinco de Mayo* celebration, a most unlikely point of contention arose.

Golf.

De La Hoya acknowledged sneaking off

Photo by Chris Farina

Flanked by promoter Bob Arum and trainer Robert Alcazar, De La Hoya is now likely to be included on most pound-for-pound lists. In successive fights, he's beaten John-John Molina and Ruelas.

Jones-James Toney. De L
Hoya, who cracked the trad
tional seven-figure barrier f
superstars when he took hom
$1.25-million for his previou
outing, a 12-round unanimou
decision over former IBF junio
lightweight titlist John-Joh
Molina, continued to scor
toward megabucks territory wit
a $1.75-million payday, whil
Ruelas became the newest mem
ber of boxing's millionaires clu
by pocketing $1-million.

"If he hadn't won the gold
medal," Ruelas said, "there's n
story."

Perhaps he was merely try
ing to hype interest in the bout
or maybe he was just giving hi
honest opinion, but De La Hoya
fired the first shot in the war o
words immediately after he go
past Molina. Of Ruelas, against
whom he was already contracte
to face, De La Hoya said matter of factly, "I
view Ruelas as awkward. He has bad balance
always lunging with his punches. With that bad
balance, when I catch him with some good
shots, he'll fall over."

Ruelas seemed to be taken aback by De La
Hoya's put-downs, reacting at first with quiz
dismay, and later with an increasingly strident
air of indignation.

"If he's trying to get to me, it won't hap

(Continued on page 3

from training to a nine-hole course at his training camp in Big Bear for the occasional round. It is his newest passion, a means of escaping the pressures of the gym.

"I think all boxers should get into golf," De La Hoya said. "Boxers have great hand-eye coordination. It's there. The timing, everything, is there."

To Ruelas, golf is not so much a leisure activity as it is a preserve for rich Anglos. Ruelas is not a golfer, nor does he expect to become one, and he cited De La Hoya's fondness for putters and pitching wedges as proof that "The Golden Boy" somehow had drifted away from his roots.

"After this fight, Oscar might want to take a rest and consider a career in golf," Ruelas said. "His heart obviously is not in boxing. It's just something he does for the money. He'd rather be out hitting golf balls."

None of the prefight comments from either man surprised Arum, who said the golf thing was merely a stitch in a wider social fabric.

"The same sort of things were pointed out when Sugar Ray Leonard fought Thomas Hearns the first time, in 1981," he noted. "Leonard was the Olympic gold medalist with the national television contract. He was the media darling. Tommy was the kid who came up the hard way. Of course there was friction between them.

"None of this is manufactured, but I wouldn't categorize it as dislike. These guys have known each other since they were kids. The first time they sparred, they were, like, 11 and 13 years old. There's always been a rivalry between them, but I would say it's a rivalry in the best sense. Each one just wants to prove he's the better fighter."

Whatever the reasons, De La Hoya-Ruelas attracted almost unprecedented pay-per-view interest among Hispanic fans, contributing to an overall buy rate that exceeded even that for Roy

"The Golden Boy" may soon face Gabe Ruelas, who stopped the ill-fated Jimmy Garcia on the De La Hoya-Rafael Ruelas undercard. Next up, however, will be WBA 130-pound champ Genaro Hernandez.

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Move Over, Big George

Photo by Abe Hochheiser

Latka, who is known as "Mr. Boxing" in Southern California, with wife Trudie. The former lightweight contender has enjoyed a long career as a referee, judge, and manager.

By Pete Ehrmann

If George Foreman was really interested in finding out the key to longevity in the ring, he could always ask George Latka, who recently demonstrated it in a sparring exhibition on his 80th birthday.

"I'm an exceptionally quick guy when it comes to boxing; I don't get hit," says Latka. "And I was never one to slug."

"He just doesn't get hit," agrees Trudie Latka, George's wife. Trudie is her husband's official biographer and is supervising the production of a documentary film on the life of the man who has been an integral part of West Coast boxing for more than half a century, as a lightweight contender in the early-'40s, and then as a referee and judge in more than 35 world championship bouts.

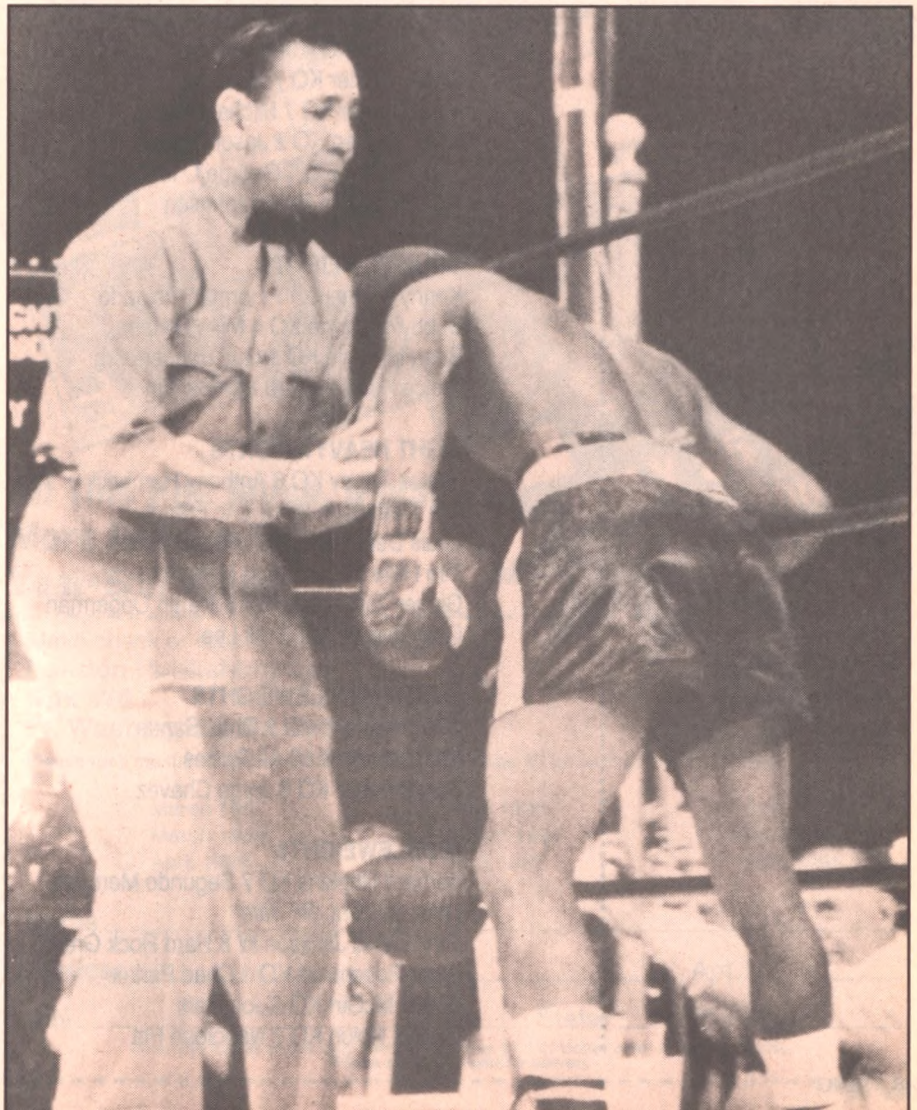
Latka has always been a trainer and manager and has appeared in numerous movies about boxing. There's hardly a facet of the fight game

In 1940, Latka's contract was bought by tough-guy actor George Raft. The relationship didn't work out and Latka's career suffered; Latka says Raft was taken advantage of by his partners.

ITTLE GEORGE S STILL BOXING AT 80

Photo by Mike Neporadny

On his 80th birthday, Latka showed off his still-formidable skills in a sparring match with policeman Joe Bahash, a former pro fighter who had been managed by Latka.



sn't been involved in, and few would dis- with Latka's assessment that "I'm kind of Boxing' in Southern California."

Back in Gary, Indiana, where he lived as a gster with his poor, immigrant parents and others and sisters, they recall Latka as one finest amateur featherweights to come out e city that has produced a well-known ng name or two.

"The Latkas and the Zales used to win all Golden Gloves titles there," said Trudie, ioning another fighting clan in Gary. The famous Zale, Tony, one of the toughest lleweight champions of all-time, is also embered by his boyhood friend George as sweetest guy who ever lived. He was so le and religious, you couldn't say 'hell' and n' around him. But *tough*—my God!"

After graduating from streetfighting to the Latka beat Tony's brother, Walter Zale, in first amateur bout, and of 159 simon-pure s, he lost only eight. The only one of the brood to make it past the fourth grade, ge, who spoke only Slavic until he began l, graduated from high school in 1936 and a boxing scholarship to San Jose State versity in California.

(Continued on page 62)

a's career as a referee included the tragic r Ramos-Davey Moore featherweight title in Los Angeles in March 1963. After the -round ending, Moore was taken to the hos- where he died of head injuries.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
George Foreman W 12 Axel Schulz
(Retains IBF Title)
Lennox Lewis KO 5 Lionel Butler
Michael Moorer W 10 Melvin Foster
Frank Bruno KO 2 Mike Evans
Tommy Morrison KO 7 Terry Anderson
Tim Witherspoon KO 1 Jesse Shelby
Joe Hipp KO 3 Phil Brown
Buster Mathis W 12 Alex Garcia
Andrew Golota KO 5 Samson Po'uha
James Thunder KO 2 Dan Dancuta
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Frankie Hines
Corrie Sanders W 10 Nikolai Kulpin
Danell Nicholson KO 1 Art Card
Alex Stewart KO 4 Tyrone Evans
John Ruiz KO 1 Jack Basting
Zeljko Mavrovic KO 11 Christophe Bizot
Dan Dancuta KO 1 Jordan Keepers
Chris Byrd KO 4 Joel Humm
Melvin Foster KO 7 Mike Dixon
Mark Carrier KO 7 Michael Greer
Brian Neilsen KO 2 Jason Waller
Tom Glesby KO 1 George O'Mara
Ron Lyle KO 4 Bruce Johnson

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Kenny Keene KO 7 Herman Delgado
Bobby Crabtree KO 4 Mike O'Han
Sean McClain KO 1 Guy Sonnenberg
Tosca Petridis W 10 Iran Barkley

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
James Toney KO 6 Anthony Hembrick
Ole Klemetsen W 10 Eric French
Louis Del Valle KO 5 Michael Green
Tim Hillie W 10 Ernest Mateen
Ginger Tshabalala KO 8 Martin Opperman
Greg Everett KO 3 Bill Lee

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Chris Johnson KO 2 Chris Sande
Sam Storey W 12 Ali Forbes
Daniel Perez KO 6 Jorge Chavez

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins KO 7 Segundo Mercado
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
John David Jackson W 8 Hard Rock Green
Dana Rosenblatt KO 1 Chad Parker
Buddy McGirt KO 5 Joe Gatti
Derrick Rolon KO 7 Napolean Pitt
Glenwood Brown KO 4 Eric Rinehardt
William Joppy W 10 Joaquin Velasquez
Kip Diggs KO 2 Mario Zavala

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Vincent Pettway KO 6 Simon Brown
(Retains IBF Title)
Gianfranco Rosi W 12 Verno Phillips
Bronco McKart KO 1 Eric Alexander
Paul Vaden W 10 Reuben Bell
Winky Wright W 10 Anthony Ivory
Keith Holmes KO 1 Kenneth Kidd
Hector Camacho W 10 Verdell Smith
Maurice Blocker KO 5 Bobby Butters
Rene Herrera KO 1 Arturo Molina
Harold Brazier W 8 Ruben Ruiz
Jorge Vaca KO 9 Jaime Llanes
Robert McCracken KO 7 Sergio Medina
Darryl Lattimore W 6 David Gonzalez

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oba Carr KO 5 Alfredo Rojas
Larry Barnes W 10 Steve Larrimore
Shibata Flores W 10 Pat Coleman
Roger Mayweather W 10 Mike Mungin
Bolillo Gonzalez KO 1 Cirilo Nino
Willy Wise KO 7 Miguel Santana
Kenny Vice KO 6 Jackie Beard
Antonio Ruiz KO 1 Bernard Grant
Carl Griffith KO 2 Robert Turner

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Juan Coggi W 10 Ildemar Paisan
Freddie Pendleton KO 10 Darryll Tyson
Jake Rodriguez W 10 Rocky Balboa
Dingaan Thobela KO 2 Kenny Vice
Jan Bergman W 12 Ray Collins
Khalid Rahilou KO 9 Gert Bo Jacobsen
Brian Mitchell W 10 Silverio Flores
Francisco Cuesta W 10 Livingstone Bramble
Soren Sondergaard KO 4 Mauro Corrente
Vernon Forrest KO 4 Desi Ford
Bill Costello KO 10 Jeff Passero

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 Rafael Ruelas
(Wins IBF Title)
Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Ricardo Silva
(Retains WBC Title)
Steve Johnston KO 9 Howard Grant
Shane Mosley KO 2 Raul Hernandez
Michael Ayers KO 8 Karl Taylor
Demetrio Ceballos KO 11 Otilio Villareal
Billy Irwin KO 6 Rodney Wilson

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Gabe Ruelas KO 11 Jimmy Garcia
(Retains WBC Title)
Ed Hopson KO 7 Moises Pedroza
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)

James Leija W 10 Jeff Mayweather
Gatti KO 1 Tito Tovar
Hugo Paz W 10 Oscar Giminez
Garcia W 12 Julian Wheeler
zio Stecca W 12 Athos Menegola
do Ruiz KO 3 Fernando Rodriguez
Murphy KO 1 Lyndon Walker
Bredahl KO 1 Rodney Garrett

THERWEIGHTS
Johnson KO 2 Victor Laureano
Title Bout)
Medina W 12 Juan Polo-Perez
Labdouni W 12 Duke McKenzie
Sanchez W 12 Jose Pantaleon
Zoff KO 4 Fabrizio Cappai
Marquez W 10 Julio Sanchez Leon
Mingo W 12 Felipe Garcia
Montes KO 3 Shane Gannon

OR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Cermeno W 12 Wilfredo Vasquez
WBA Title)
Bungu W 12 Victor Llerena
IBF Title)
Hamed KO 2 Enrique Angeles
Ncita KO 2 Roberto Godoy
Toledo KO 7 Roy Lee Simpson
Toledo W 6 Juan Bissono
Belcastro W 12 Sergei Devakov
Ledwaba W 10 Juan Polo-Perez
Lowey KO 5 Juan Camero
Harada W 10 Edwin Fernandez
de Abreu W 10 Fabrice Benichou

TAMWEIGHTS
Botile KO 2 Harold Mestre
IBF Title)
Armour KO 8 Antonio Picardi

OR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Tapia Tech. Draw 8 Ricardo Vargas
Kang Kim W 10 Leo Ramirez

EIGHTS
Romero W 12 Francisco Tejedor
IBF Title)
Johnson KO 3 Mauro Diaz
Martinez KO 4 Julio Luna
Olson W 12 Jorge Luis Roman
Orozco W 12 Pablo Tiznado
Arciniega W 12 Ignacio Aguilar
Matlala D 10 Sam Stewart

WEIGHTS
Tamaki W 10 Juan Herrera

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

"The Golden Boy" can no longer be criticized for the level of his competition. In his two most recent bouts, De La Hoya has outpointed John-John Molina and crushed Rafael Ruelas. For the first time, you'll find De La Hoya in our pound-for-pound ratings. Any argument against the IBF lightweight champion's inclusion, we're quite certain, will be weak ones.

Perhaps equally deserving of this month's honors are Danny Romero, who won the IBF flyweight title from Francisco Tejedor, and Vince Pettway, who dramatically retained the IBF junior middleweight crown by twice rising from the canvas to kayo Simon Brown. Heck, you could even toss in Axel Schulz, for that matter. But we couldn't deny De La Hoya, who blew out Ruelas, a rough, tough fighter and a good champion, in two rounds. It was the kind of performance that not only confirmed his superstardom but hinted at future greatness, too.

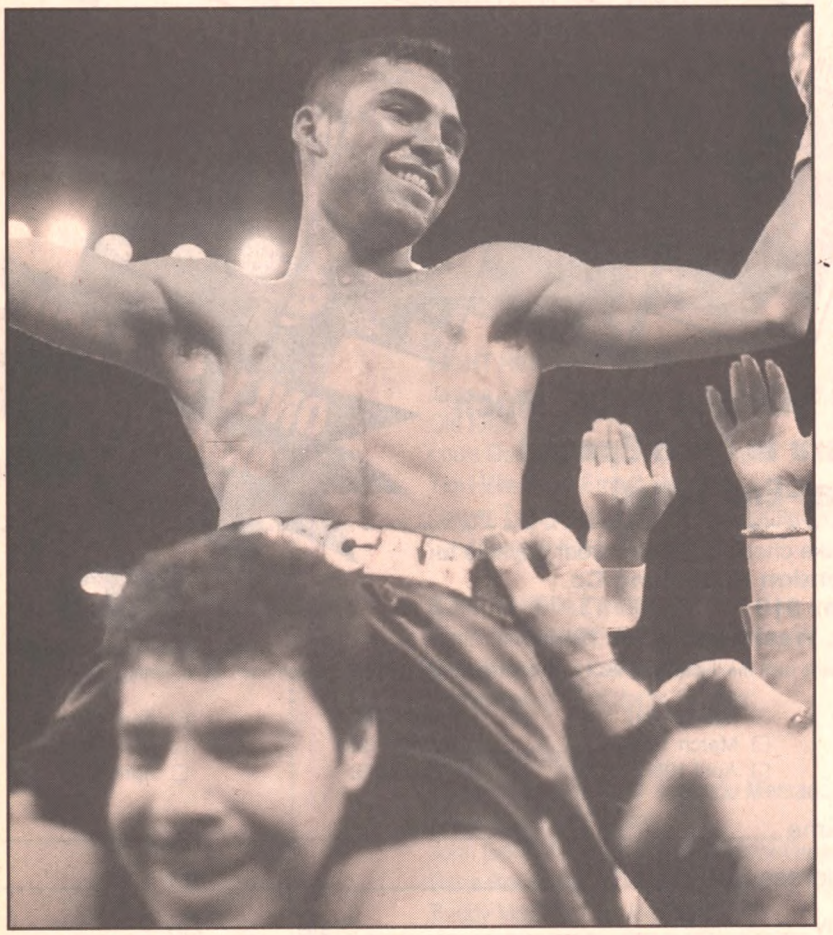


Photo by Chris Farina

• • • •

Oscar De La Hoya

suei Yakushiji W 12 Cuauhtemoc Gomez

Nagoya, Japan: The lanky Yakushiji proved both quick and elusive in ning the WBC bantamweight title for the fourth time with a majority sion over Gomez at Rainbow Hall. There were few extended rallies, s a result, it was not a particularly intriguing affair.

The 26-year-old Yakushiji, 117¾, Tsukumi, Japan, is five inches taller Gomez, 117½, Mexico City, Mexico, and he won the first two rounds his jab. The Mexican rebounded with several right hands in the third fourth, and his success kept Yakushiji from opening up. Still, the pion controlled the fifth, sixth, and seventh with his boxing skills, hose stanzas, which were fought on the Japanese's terms, ultimately ed the difference. The last five rounds were close, with Yakushiji, 24-16), gaining a clear edge only in the ninth and 12th.

And the 24-year-old Gomez, 32-4 (24), punched more often or in com-sion, he might have captured the decision. Instead, the verdict was received, with Dick Young (USA) scoring 116-112, Malcolm Bulner stralia) 117-111, and David Chung (South Korea) 114-114. The refer-as Frank Cappuccino (USA).

It is anticipated that Yakushiji's next defense will come against heavily ed number-one contender Wayne McCullough.

Promoter: Matsuda Promotions

(4-2-95)

Joe Koizumi

Hopson KO 7 Moises Pedroza

Atlantic City, New Jersey: The coronation went as planned when son won the vacant IBF junior lightweight title by knocking out za at 2:07 of the seventh round at Bally's Park Place.

The 23-year-old Hopson, 128, St. Louis, Missouri, had performed duti-for Team Duva while awaiting his chance. It finally came when long-champion and stablemate John-John Molina vacated the title and ed up to lightweight. All that was needed was an appropriate opponent Hopson. That came in the form of Pedroza, 130, Barranquilla, mbia, who, while unbeaten, hadn't fought outside of Colombia, hadn't t anyone of note, and hadn't fought—period—in a year and a half.

Hopson, 26-0 (13), played his part to near-perfection. The first five ds were virtual carbon-copies, with the southpaw Hopson boxing cautiously but smoothly, and the lanky Pedroza, 14-1 (13), following and tossing in an occasional right that resembled a softball pitcher trying to sneak in a side-armer. The Colombian was evidently used to foes he could hit, and he had no idea how to deal with the slick American.

Though Hopson carefully parceled the action, the fans were riveted in expectance. They got their chance to erupt in the sixth, when Hopson suddenly struck with a left that sent Pedroza down. After the mandatory count of referee Eddie Cotton (USA), Hopson, not ready to put his signature on the work, lured Pedroza in for the remainder of the round. By the next session he was ready—which provided Pedroza the opportunity for his only offensive highlight. Evidently having lost some of his caution, Hopson got caught by a counter right early in the round. He slipped away, boxed himself back into control, then dropped in the finisher, a straight left that stretched the ambushed Pedroza for the full count.

Hopson won every round on all three cards. The judges were Leroy Brown, Deborah Barnes, and Al DeVito, all from the USA.

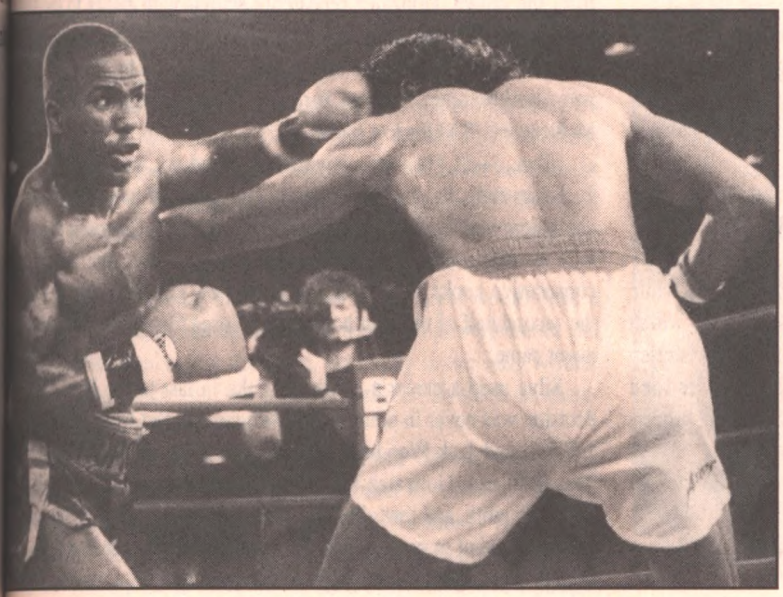
The fight plan, proclaimed handler Lou Duva, had been perfectly executed: "Box this guy, turn this guy, make him miss, and then make him pay."

Though Hopson's victory came on the afternoon of the heavily publicized George Foreman-Axel Schulz fight, Team Duva promises to make "Fast Eddie" a household name. They've spoken of unification battles, while other possibilities include defenses against Tracy Patterson and mandatory challenger Arturo Gatti.

Promoter: Main Events

(4-22-95)

J.R. Jowett



"Fast Eddie" never slowed down

Bernard Hopkins KO 7 Segundo Mercado

Landover, Maryland: This time Hopkins left no doubt, winning the vacant IBF middleweight title with a resounding seventh-round stoppage of Mercado on the Pettway-Brown card at the USAir Arena.

Hopkins and Mercado had brawled to a 12-round draw in their first attempt to fill the void created when Roy Jones moved up in weight. That bout was held in Mercado's hometown of Quito, Ecuador, in December, at an elevation of 9,300 feet. Hopkins dominated much of the bout, but suffered two knockdowns and had to settle for a stalemate.

The first two rounds of the rematch were relatively uneventful, but in the third, Hopkins, 158, Philadelphia, rattled Mercado, 160, with a hook, then unloaded with a sustained barrage. Pinned on the ropes, Mercado desperately fired back with several low blows and survived the round. In the fourth, however, Hopkins hurt him again with hard rights.

The fifth was a huge round for Hopkins. "The Executioner," 27-2-1 (20), belabored his opponent with one flush shot after another, but every time referee Rudy Battle (USA) looked ready to intervene, Mercado stubbornly swung back.

The sixth was also all Hopkins, and when he sent Mercado, 18-3-1 (11), lurching across the ring with another series of brutal rights in the seventh, Battle wisely called a halt 1:10 into the round.

The impressive victory made Hopkins the first Philadelphia-born world middleweight champion. (Joey Giardello, who lived in and fought out of Philly throughout his career, was a native New Yorker.)

"The way I looked at it, I was defending the title I'd

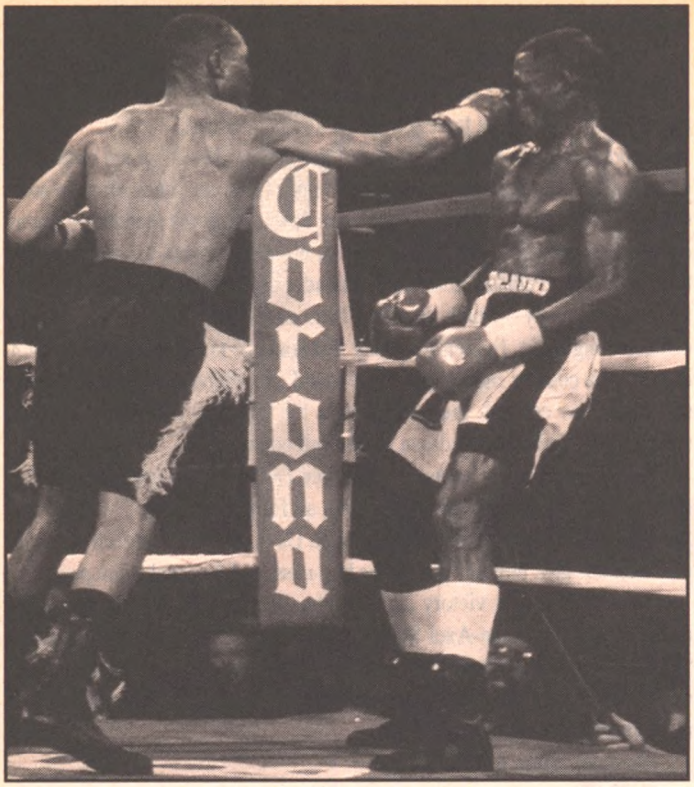


Photo by Will Hart/Showtime

Hopkins gives Mercado a nose job

already won," said Hopkins. "Take away the advantages [Mercado] had in Quito, and there's no way he could beat me."

Promoter: Don King Productions

(4-29-95)

Nigel Collins

Vuyani Bungu W 12 Victor Llerena

Johannesburg, South Africa: Defending the IBF junior featherweight title for the third time, local favorite Bungu scored a one-sided but unspectacular decision over Llerena before a disappointing crowd of about 2,500 at FNB Stadium. The home of South African football has a capacity of 80,000.

The classy 28-year-old Bungu, 122, East London, South Africa, stuck to the basics, bobbing and weaving to limit the challenger's offense and working mostly at close range. Llerena, 121½, Colombia, came to South Africa with the reputation as a big banger, but he never really threatened the champion.

Referee Clement Martin (South Africa) was rather harsh on the challenger. He deducted two points in the fourth and one in the eighth for low blows, and the penalties clearly discouraged Llerena.

Bungu, 27-2 (17), picked his punches with precision throughout, while the 23-year-old Llerena, 14-1, winged wild haymakers, most of which were taken on the gloves and arms. In the early rounds, Bungu's crisp punches and greater work rate ensured a points lead. He also finished strongly, and when Llerena realized he had no chance of winning a decision, he desperately tried for a knockout in the last two rounds.

Alfred Buqwana (South Africa) scored 118-108, Pete Podgorski (USA) 120-105, and Francisco Hernandez (Colombia) 117-111.

Promoter: Rodney Berman (Golden Gloves Promotions)

(4-29-95)

Ron Jackson

Mbulelo Botile KO 2 Harold Mestre

Johannesburg, South Africa: It was a dreadful night for Colombia the Bungu-Llerena card, Mestre, making his first defense of the IBF tamweight title, appeared to be in a trance, and crowd favorite Botile talized to score the biggest win of his career.

The 26-year-old Mestre, 117¾, Cartagena, Colombia, started in motion, and he was stung by a barrage of rights and lefts in the op round. The 22-year-old Botile, 117¼, East London, South Africa, freely, then continued the pressure in round two. After Mestre, 21-3 was warned for a low blow by referee Stanley Christodoulou (S Africa), Botile, 16-0 (10), stormed in with a left-right combination jaw that sent the champion sprawling. Mestre made it to his feet but he stumbled wildly across the ring, prompting Christodoulou to halt at the 1:24 mark.

The judges were Lulama Mtya (South Africa), Francisco Her (Colombia), and Pete Podgorski (USA).

In January, Mestre had kayoed countryman Juvenal Berrio to w title that had been vacated by record-setting champion Orlando Can

(4-29-95)

Ron Jackson

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Ricardo Silva

South Padre Island, Texas: The trouble with being a star is that p expect—even demand—a masterpiece every time out. Of course, it always be so. WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez, who made his defense before a crowd of 1,866 at the SPI Convention Center, wish fans would remember that.

Gonzalez, 134½, Mexico City, Mexico, scored a one-sided de over "Kojak" Silva, 132½, Buenos Aires, Argentina. But even he somewhat disappointed in his performance.

"He was a difficult opponent," said the 24-year-old champion couldn't get used to his style. He was going backward all the time, can't excuse myself, but I didn't know my opponent was left-handed that threw me off a little bit. I also hurt a finger on my right hand fourth round, and I couldn't hit him like I wanted to after that."

The first round was purely introductory, but Gonzalez, 36-0 established command in the second. With cries of "May-hee-co!" r from the crowd, Gonzalez repeatedly scored with rights to the head body. Silva, who spent far too long trying to figure out how to hand champion, developed a mouse under his right eye by the third. Go went unthreatened, except for repeated warnings from referee McKenzie (USA) for low blows.

Silva, 34-11 (14), may have taken round six, as Gonzalez regr In the seventh, the challenger caught Gonzalez off-balance with a le champion went down, but McKenzie ruled a slip. Gonzalez bounced with his best round of the fight in the eighth, at one point launching consecutive hooks as Silva lay on the ropes. The Argentine spent m the second half of the bout hoping for a Jorge Castro-like miracle p never came.

Silva used a career's worth of tricks to last to the final bell, a decision was never in doubt. Karl Milligan and Sid Rubinstein both s 118-110 and Jack Woodruff 119-109. All three judges are from the THE RING saw Gonzalez the winner by 119-109, giving Silva only sixth and ninth, and awarding the champion a 10-8 round in the eighth

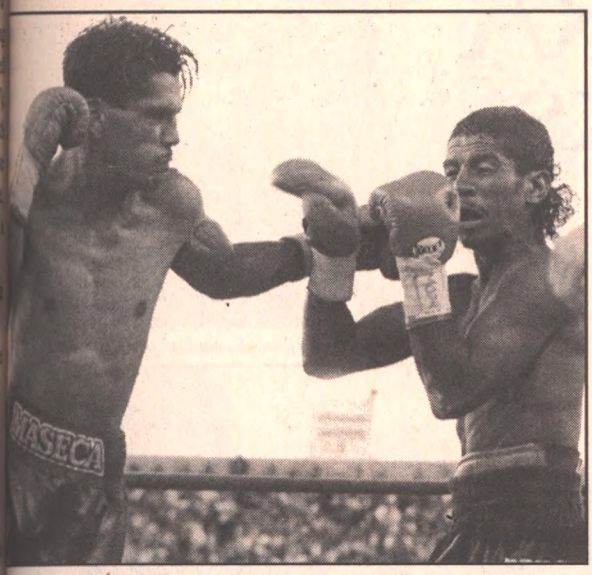
As we went to press, Gonzalez was scheduled to defend against Jakubowski on June 2 in Ledyard, Connecticut. After that, he hopes unification against newly crowned IBF king Oscar De La Hoya.

"I feel I'm the best champion, and that's the truth," he said. "[De La Hoya] seems to be the one interested. I never looked for that fight, but I welcome it."

Promoter: Azteca Promotions

(4-25-95)

Bruce Williams



García absorbed 11 rounds of punishment

Gabe Ruelas KO 11 Jimmy Garcia

Las Vegas, Nevada: Ruelas had hoped to retain the WBC super featherweight title with style and substance, but not with such dire results. His KO victory over Garcia was followed by tragedy; 13 days later, Garcia died from massive brain injuries suffered in the bout.

About two minutes after the referee, Mitch Halpern (USA), stopped the fight, Garcia collapsed in his corner. He was taken to University Medical Center, where emergency surgery was performed to remove a blood clot from his brain.

"He just never improved," said nursing supervisor Bill Pellegrino. "We were very optimistic that he would do better, but he didn't."

At 1:43 a.m. on May 19, doctors shut off life-support systems after it was determined Garcia was brain dead.

"I wish it had been me who died, not Jimmy," Ruelas told the *New York Times*, a few hours after Garcia's death.

Making his second defense on the undercard of his brother Rafael's heavily hyped battle with Oscar De La Hoya, Ruelas, 130, Sylmar, California, was a 12-1 favorite against a fighter who had never before been stopped. Garcia, 129½, Barranquilla, Colombia, was making his first start since losing on points to WBA 130-pound champion Genaro Hernandez last November.

Almost from the opening bell, it was evident Garcia would need a knockout to win the title. Landing with both wide lead powerpunches and short combinations, Ruelas was dominant, especially in the early rounds. There were no knockdowns, but the judges nonetheless awarded the champion a handful of 10-8 rounds.

Visibly frustrated because he hadn't stopped Garcia in the early rounds, Ruelas battered the Colombian from corner to corner in the 10th. Halpern summoned ringside physician Dr. Flip Homansky to examine Garcia before the start of the 11th. Homansky decided Garcia could continue, but told Halpern not to allow him to absorb any more severe punishment. After Ruelas landed two vicious rights to the jaw, Halpern called a halt 25 seconds into the 11th.

Said Nevada Athletic Commission Chairman James Nave afterward, "We are extremely satisfied with the performance of Mitch Halpern."

The judges were Bob Logist (Belgium), Sergio Silvi (Italy), and Chuck Giampa (USA).

As we went to press, the Nevada Athletic Commission was investigating reports that Garcia had lost as much as 32 pounds to make weight. He didn't fight in the six months between the Hernandez and Ruelas bouts.

Ruelas, 41-2 (23), earned $300,000, and Garcia, 35-5 (25), $20,000.

Promoter: Top Rank

(5-6-95)

Jack Welsh

James Toney KO 6 Anthony Hembrick

Las Vegas, Nevada: Once again featuring his TNT punching, two-division former world champion Toney won the USBA light heavyweight crown, stopping familiar foe Hembrick before a national television audience and an outdoor crowd of 3,800 at the Rio Suite Hotel.

Having lost two of his last three, Toney, 175, Ann Arbor, Michigan, made sure to take command from the opening bell. He dropped Hembrick, 175, Detroit, Michigan, with a sharp jab in the second, and wobbled him with three rights and a left late in the third. Hembrick, who had been stopped by Toney in six rounds in January 1994, was never effective with his jab-and-move style.

In the fifth, the 26-year-old Toney, 46-2-2 (31), felled Hembrick, 29-7-1 (21), with a right, and it came as no surprise when the 1988 Olympian chose to remain on his stool at the bell for round six.

"I picked up where I left off last July with Prince Charlie Williams," said Toney. "I feel good about having a belt around my waist again, even if it isn't a world championship. I didn't know it was gonna be that hot in the ring [88 degrees], but I knew I could take everything Hembrick had."

The referee was Richard Steele. The judges were Tom McDonough, Jerry Roth, and Dalby Shirley.

Afterward, Hembrick, 29, announced his retirement.

The fight was televised by CBS.

(4-30-95)

Jack Welsh ■

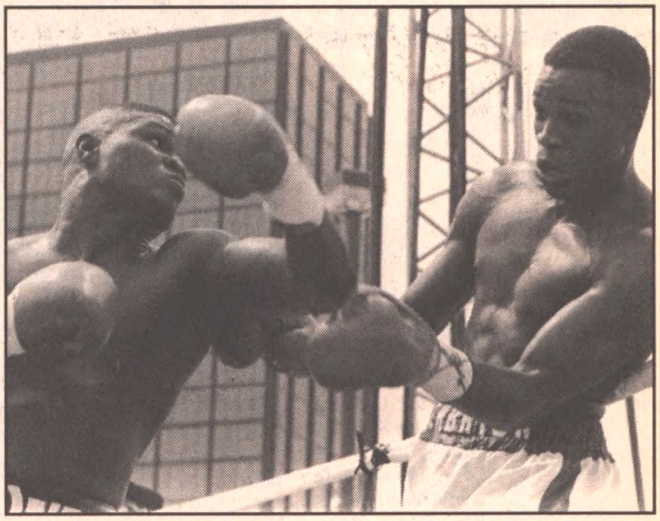


Photo by Chris Farina

Toney punched Hembrick into retirement

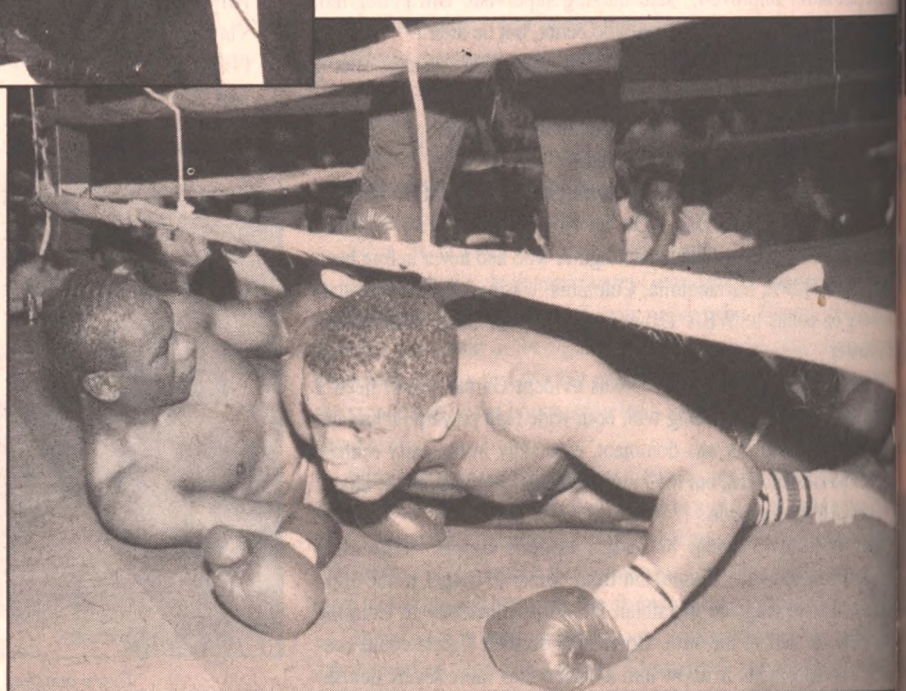
CAMERA CLICKS

Is WBC lightweight champion Miguel Ang Gonzalez the King Kong of his division? There similarities, but Kong had a much longer reach.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Watch out, Gil and Ferdie, there's a new boxing analyst on the tube. (His name escapes us at the present.) Something tells us he's going to work as often as he wants.



Did someone lose a contact lens? During their 10-rounder in New York City, welterweights Steve Larrimore (left) and Larry Barnes didn't confine their battle to ring-center. Barnes won on points.

...nd former heavyweight contender Mitch "Blood" Green pressing the ... to speak, on a recent card at the The Armory in New York City.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

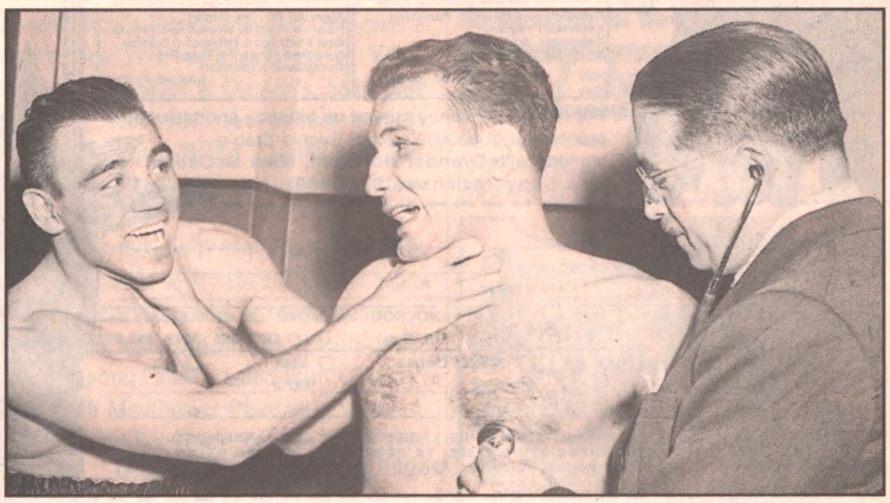
Spotted at a recent press conference in New York City (from left): Michael Bentt, Iran Barkley, Juan LaPorte, and Gerry Cooney.

...vals Ken Norton and Muhammad Ali admire ...ork of John Petek, whose sculpture of "The ...est" was unveiled in Las Vegas.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Is George Foreman appointing his successor? At the annual Boxing Writers Association of America awards dinner, Big George liked what he saw in unbeaten heavyweight prospect Shannon Briggs.

NOSTALGIA CORNER



They just don't make publicity photos like they used to. Before their non-title fight at Madison Square Garden in December 1949, Robert Villemain and world middleweight champion Jake LaMotta went at each other's throats. In the real fight, the Frenchman employed a more conventional attack and won on points.

Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 42)

pen," Ruelas said several weeks before the fight. "I don't know his reason for doing it, but Oscar's been talking a lot of trash. If he wants to elevate himself in his own mind by putting me down, that's his way of doing it. I'll give my answer in the ring."

A few days before fight night, however, Ruelas angrily denounced De La Hoya's assertion that he would "take Ruelas' heart."

"How's he going to take my heart?" Ruelas said. "If he really believes that, he is fooling himself." Of their 1992 pre-Olympic sparring sessions, Ruelas added, "He asked to spar, but after two days he didn't want to come back to the gym. It was too tough for him."

Ruelas' excitable trainer, Joe Goossen, was even more unforgiving in his recollections. "Oscar left because he got his ass whipped," said Goossen, who allowed that Ruelas would be "all over Oscar like a soup sandwich. Molina had the right idea. He just didn't have the skills or the size to get the job done. Rafael does."

The prefight heat was turned up a few notches when, at the final press conference, De La Hoya and Ruelas were seated on opposite sides of a long dais. On De La Hoya's side of the stage was a large Mexican flag; on Ruelas' side was a large American flag. The placing of the flags was coincidental, but intentions were unmistakable when it was Ruelas' turn to speak. He switched the flags before stepping to the podium, as if to say he is more Mexican than De La Hoya.

Give Ruelas credit for winning the battle for the hearts and minds of the majority of the 10,118 spectators in Caesars Palace's outdoor stadium. Ruelas, who went off as a 5-2 underdog, was cheered much more loudly upon entering the ring than was De La Hoya, the golfing insider.

But words and images meant nothing once the bell sounded, and it was immediately evident that De La Hoya's observations about Ruelas' balance was as on-target as his punches would prove to be. Rushing from his corner, Ruelas, 135, Sylmar, California, uncorked a wild hook that missed badly and sent him lurching off to the side. De La Hoya, 134½, East Los Angeles, California, moved laterally and won the round by scoring with a couple of hooks to the body and some right hands.

Ruelas' sense of balance became [illegible] impaired when, a minute or so into the [illegible] round, he attempted to throw a right and [illegible] countered by a well-timed hook to the jaw. [illegible] IBF champion crashed to the canvas, [illegible] although he beat the count of referee Richard Steele (USA), he arose on wobbly legs.

De La Hoya wasn't about to let the opportunity pass. He quickly put Ruelas down again, this time with a short right, and he was [illegible] freely with both hands along the ropes [illegible] Steele leaped in and signaled a halt to the [illegible] at the 1:43 mark.

"He knew I'd be coming after him," Ruelas said. "I tried to get things started a little [illegible] than I normally do, and he just caught me [illegible] clean shot. He caught me before I caught him."

Alternately pompous and penitent, De La Hoya strives to appear humble even as his arrogance bubbles to the surface. Asked if his quick demolition of Ruelas had put him on a [illegible] with WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker, who is widely perceived as boxing's best pound-for-pound practitioner, De La Hoya said, "Oh, no. Too tough for me. I've only had 18 fights. I'm still a little chihuahua in with [illegible]

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pit bulls." Moments later, the cautious gave way to the defiant Oscar, who that "in my heart, I am the best fighter." ct up for De La Hoya will be WBA 130- champion Genaro Hernandez in Sep- which will also make for a battle of Los s. The bucks and the rave reviews figure on pouring in.

um, meanwhile, is left to wonder whether 's answer to Jumbo will continue to swell antine proportions.

e's going to be huge, the biggest thing in g," Arum said of De La Hoya. "I'm not he is or will be a better fighter than Roy or Pernell Whitaker, but he'll be bigger at x office. There's an element of charisma mes into play. Sugar Ray Leonard had it. id has it, too.

Leonard provided us with the map we're to follow. The map traces a route from a ht to a bigger fight to an even bigger fight hat."

ly time will tell if the route goes past the s brothers and Rosenblatt and maybe Julio Chavez, and all the way to that place Ali and a precious few others reside. All can't see the entire map. But the trajectory followed does seem to be heading up. ■

Bernard Fernandez covers boxing for the delphia Daily News.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

en would have loftier goals than profes- boxing. "I was the exception to the rule," plains. "Very few fighters in Uganda go to and the most popular fighters come from milies and bad backgrounds. It was quite nt for me."

kana compiled an amateur record of 79- d in 1990 won the British-Commonwealth a lightweight in New Zealand. By that e had finished high school, which is six in Uganda, and was debating whether to a university or embark on a professional "Boxing was very important to me at me," he says. "I had put so much work amateur career and didn't want to quit."

kana moved to Belgium, where he pro in February 1990. He quickly became favorite, winning 11 bouts in 17 months. st setback came when he was stopped by Habib Hammani in two rounds in November 1991. "He knocked me down once," he recounts. "I got right up and my eyes were clear, but the referee stopped it anyway. I was still very young and had so little experience. I didn't know what to do when I got hurt."

He rebounded immediately, scoring two knockouts before campaigning in France and Luxembourg, where he went undefeated in six fights. In Luxembourg, he met his fiancee Linda, a hotel receptionist. They soon had a daughter, Raquel, who is now three.

While fighting in Paris, Nyakana met American manager Bobby Miles, who brought him to New York with the promise of speedy career advancement. He left Linda and Raquel behind and moved into a small apartment in the North Bronx. His relationship with Miles soon soured.

"I was promised six fights a year," he laments. "But in my first two years here, I only fought twice."

Nyakana insists Miles was a good trainer, but just wasn't moving his career fast enough: "I was boxing every day at Gleason's Gym with great fighters, like Lonnie Bradley, Julio Cesar Green, Raymond Joval, and many great amateurs. But I wasn't getting fights. It was very frustrating."

Adding to his frustration was an eight-round draw against wily veteran Willy Wise in September 1993. "I certainly thought I won that fight; I thought I won every round but one," he says. "I knocked him down in the second with a bodyshot, but it was called a low blow by the referee. I thought there was no question that I won that fight." The bouts vs. Wise and Hammani are the only blemishes on his record of 25-1-1 (15).

Three months after the Wise fight, Nyakana returned to Belgium and won the lightly regarded WBF 154-pound title with a 12-round decision over Zaire's Patrick Vungbo. Then came a return to New York and a major change. While working with Bradley at Gleason's, he became very impressed with the unbeaten middleweight's trainer, Bobby Cassidy, who had been a middleweight and light heavyweight contender in the '70s.

"I always thought Bobby was a very good teacher," Nyakana says. "He and Lonnie had a good relationship, and I needed that, too." Nyakana and Miles parted ways in early-1994, and the fighter, now teamed with Cassidy, signed with Mouthpiece Placement Services, which also handles Kevin Kelley, John David

(Continued on page 56)

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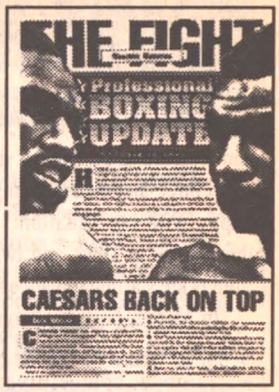

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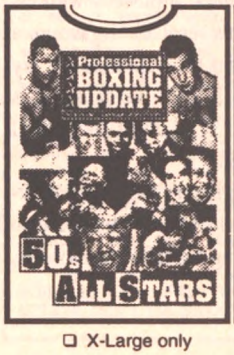

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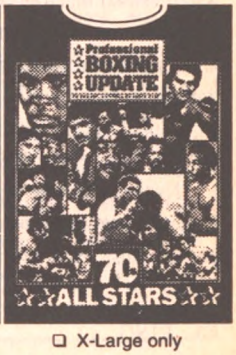

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New Faces

(Continued from page 55)

Jackson, and James Toney. Five wins followed, and Nyakana is now in the shadows of the top 10 of all three major sanctioning bodies. "I am very happy with my situation," he says. "I fought three times in 1994, and twice already in 1995. Things are starting to happen very quickly."

In March, Nyakana won an ESPN-televised split decision over rugged Lloyd Joseph. "That was a good, competitive fight," he attests. "Joseph was a natural middleweight, so I had to deal with his strength. I didn't think it should have been as close as it was, but I was glad for the win and the exposure." He emerged victorious by scores of 98-93, 97-93, and 94-96.

"Godfrey is a very content, humble guy with a tremendous fighting heart," says Cassidy. "When I first saw him with Lonnie [Bradley], I thought, *I got the best prospect around, and he gave him a great workout.* Godfrey is a no-popcorn kind of guy. He's really very good. I can easily see him winning one of the titles within a year."

Cassidy was thrilled with the Joseph fight: "People say Godfrey makes easy fights hard," the trainer said. "But in that fight he went 10 tough rounds and shined. That was very important for him. Right now he can give any of the champs a good fight. A year from now, he'll be ready to beat them. His work ethic is outstanding."

Nyakana can't wait for a title shot, *any* title shot. "There is talk of me fighting WBO champion Verno Phillips soon," he says. "He is a good fighter, but I move faster and am much smarter. Vincent Pettway would be a tough fight, too. All fighters that win championships are tough, but I know I can beat them.

"I came to the United States to fight the best fighters and get the best out of my talent. The only way I can do that is by fighting Terry Norris or Pettway or Phillips, people of that caliber."

If determination plays a factor, Nyakana is sure to secure big fights. The fact that he has sacrificed so much in order to proceed with his career is testament to his resolve. "I gave up a university education and the happiness of my family in order to win a title," he says. "It is very lonely here. There is so much sacrifice. I have no family here at all."

Nyakana's daily regimen consists of training, reading about world history, listening to reggae music, and writing his reflections of life. Foremost on his mind, however, is the anticipation of being reunited—after he wins a world title—with his fiancee and daughter.

"I will stay in America until my career is established," he says. "I really want to bring them over here. But Linda has a good job in Luxembourg, and it would be too much of a struggle for them to be here now. But that day will come."

Nyakana is an exception to several boxing stereotypes. Besides coming from a family of means, he is introspective and without a trace of bombast. He speaks five languages fluently (French, Dutch, English, Swahili, and Lingala), and talks more like a university graduate then a professional prize fighter. There is little doubt he would have been a success in any path he chose.

"When I was young, I never imagined myself being a boxer," he says. "Then, once I started, I never thought of ever being a professional. Now I think of nothing but becoming a champion." ■

Bob Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City.

Danny Romero

(Continued from page 25)

"This morning he was bugging me, 'Let's go to the track and loosen up.' I told him, 'No way. I said two weeks [after the fight] before you work out again."

"This has been my dream; I'm not gonna do anything to ruin it," said Romero. "Number one, I have a great family circle. When I get too big for my own britches, believe me, they kick me right back into place."

Romero remains humble enough to credit longtime friend Carbajal for introducing the junior flyweight and flyweight classes to big-money fights; for the second of three 108-pound title bouts vs. Chiquita, Carbajal took home the division's first and only $1-million payday. Ironically, Romero now needs Carbajal or Chiquita to rise to the next level. A showdown with Carbajal is unlikely because while Romero is promoted by Bob Arum, "Little Hands Of Stone" fights for Don King. However, said DiBella, "we've already had discussions about Chiquita Gonzalez."

"Carbajal would be the more difficult fight because we know each other well," said Romero. "He's a big puncher, and it would be a technical fight. I'd have to fight smart like I did against Tejedor. That would be the fight of my life.

"But we'd love for Chiquita to be our second defense. First of all, he's a southpaw, and I've fought tons of them. He's a great champion, but he wouldn't be as difficult as people might think. He recently turned to a boxing style because ever since the first fight with Carbajal, he's scared of getting knocked out. We're stronger than Michael, and we know we can impose our will on Chiquita."

As for crosstown rival Johnny Tapia, who is the WBO junior bantamweight champion, Romero said, "We don't like talking about it. We feel the IBF, WBA, and WBC champions are the real ones."

In this era of cheapened titles, Romero is about as real as it gets. At 20, he's the youngest reigning world champion in boxing. But his coronation was nonetheless a long time coming.

"This is all he's ever dreamed of," said Danny Sr. "When he was 14, we were at Disneyland, and Danny posed for one of those mock covers of THE RING, with the headline 'The Star Of Tomorrow.' Now he doesn't have to pretend anymore." ■

Lou Ambers

(Continued from page 27)

kid for?' and I'd start to fight with him, with the other guy."

When Ambers was 16, Rev. Gustavo Purificato, a local priest, opened the doors of the church basement, and Herkimer's toughies began beating each other up with gloves on. Ambers was the only scrapper with true talent, and he soon graduated to bootleg bouts. When the money dried up, he took a desperate step, traveling to New York City, the fight capital of the world. He slept on benches in Central Park and Grand Central Station until someone finally noticed him in the gym. Next thing he knew, Ambers had been hired as a sparring partner for his idol, Tony Canzoneri.

The next time Ambers was spotted, it was at his 13th pro fight in Coney Island. Al Weill was attracted to Ambers' tenacity and crowd-pleasing style. They shook hands one day later—they never had a contract—and instead of having to knock down doors, Ambers had someone who knew how to open them.

"Significantly, Ambers was one of the best-managed fighters of all-time," said THE RING

...her Stanley Weston. "Weill was a tough ...d, but nobody ever touched his heart the ...Lou did."

...Getting along with Al was no secret," ...rs told THE RING in 1991. "You just had to ...stand one thing: He was the boss, and his ...was law. Once you respected that, he treat... like a son."

...s Ambers battled inside the ring, Weill bat... ...outside. The payoff was the fighter's first ...at a world title. Ironically, it came against ...noneri, in a bout at Madison Square Garden ...he vacant 135-pound crown. The familiar ...s clashed in May 1935, with Ambers show... ...far too much respect in losing a 15-round ...sion. No big deal; Canzoneri had lost his ...world title fight, too.

...Ambers earned a rematch the hard way, suf... ...a broken jaw in defeating Fritzie Zivic ...pping such world-class battlers as Frankie ...k and Baby Arizmendi. He also kayoed ...Scarpati in seven rounds, and the loser ...three days later from head injuries suffered ...he bout. Deeply distraught, Ambers consid... ...retirement. The support and encouragement ...Rev. Purificato and a benefit bout for ...pati's family convinced him to reconsider.

...The return with Canzoneri came at the ...en in September 1936. Ambers proved far ...quick for the fading champion, and he took ...ide by unanimous decision. After a non-title ...points loss to the much bigger Jimmy ...Lamin in the Irishman's final fight, Ambers ...successful defenses against Canzoneri (W ...and Pedro Montanez (W 15) on promoter ...Jacobs' famed Carnival of Champions ...at the Polo Grounds in 1937.

...Perhaps the most memorable bouts of ...ers' 10-year, 100-bout career were his title ...ts vs. Henry Armstrong. Their first war, ...ed at Madison Square Garden in August ..., was considered the greatest lightweight ...st since Battling Nelson-Ad Wolgast in ... Seeking world titles in an unprecedented ...divisions, featherweight and welterweight ...pion Armstrong jumped to the lead by ...ing knockdowns in rounds five and six. "He ...so many punches," said Ambers, "it was ...fighting three guys." Ambers rallied late, ...in the championship rounds, Armstrong ...from cuts over both eyes and inside his ...lip. After winning the title by split deci... "Hammerin' Hank" vomited a half-quart ...e blood he had swallowed, then took 16 ...es in his mouth. "It was my toughest fight ...," he later said.

...The rematch, fought one year later at Yankee Stadium, might have been his second-toughest. The difference turned out to be the referee. Arthur Donovan penalized Armstrong an unheard of five rounds for punching low, and Ambers won by unanimous decision. At age 25, he was a two-time champion.

"Armstrong was the toughest guy I ever fought," said Ambers. "You had to fight every second of every round or get blown out of the ring."

There was no reason to think Ambers wouldn't enjoy a lengthy reign, especially after he outpointed Al "Bummy" Davis, who was unbeaten in 39 bouts, three fights after topping Armstrong. But some fighters lose it all at once. Defending against terrific puncher Lew Jenkins at Madison Square Garden in May 1940, the champion suffered a third-round knockout loss. He talked Weill into securing a rematch, which would be a non-title fight because Ambers had struggled to make weight the first time around. Ambers fought well for the first six rounds of the fight, which took place in February 1941 at Madison Square Garden, but after Jenkins floored the former champion in the seventh, Weill tossed in the towel.

"When I fought Lew Jenkins [in the first bout]," Ambers said in *In This Corner ...* , "to tell you the truth, honest to God, I seen the right hand come right to my face. Now, I've always just stepped aside. That night I couldn't move. I'm stunned there. I got hit. He knocked me down. I got up. The same thing happened the second time."

The day after Ambers' second loss to Jenkins, Weill summoned him to his office and had him sign some papers. Unbeknownst to Ambers, he had just agreed to never again step into a prize ring. Weill had set him up with some annuities, and unlike so many former champions, Ambers never struggled for money. He retired with a final record of 86-8-6 (27).

"A list of the all-time great lightweights has to include Ambers," said Hank Kaplan, America's foremost boxing historian. "He was a speed merchant and a whirling dervish who was very difficult to hit. He wasn't a conventional stylist, but he fought the greatest lightweights of his time and stood up with all of them."

Ambers' postfight career began when he joined the Coast Guard in 1942. After moving to Phoenix, he worked for a metal company, then began enjoying retired life. "He was very proud of his career; he felt today's fighters didn't have to climb the ladder the way he did," said Margaret. "But he always said that if he had his

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Lou Ambers

(Continued from page 57)

life to live over again, he'd do the same things.

"He was a very private man, and the last 10, 15 years of his life, he didn't feel well, and he didn't want to go out and make public appearances, because he was afraid he might get sick. But he always answered his fan mail. There are still five pieces of mail here that he didn't get the chance to respond to."

If Ambers was right and he indeed did encounter "the good old man up there," we doubt the conversation went as he had predicted. Instead of being asked how good of a boy he had been, Ambers was probably asked about the Canzoneri fights, and the bloody battles with Armstrong, and what it had been like against Davis and Zivic and McLarnin. And who could blame Him for being curious? After all, they don't often receive the likes of Ambers up there anymore. ■

What If ...

(Continued from page 29)

ber-one ranking from both the WBA and the WBC. However, 1983 went by and no title shot was forthcoming. Then, in '84, Steward bypassed McCallum and matched stablemate and two-time champion Thomas Hearns against legendary WBA junior middleweight titlist Roberto Duran. McCallum expressed disappointment but refrained from publicly blasting Steward or Kronk. Steward, who was criticized for blocking McCallum's progress, indirectly offended McCallum even further by trying to explain his actions: "Let's face it," he said. "Thomas Hearns is a marquee fighter. Duran would not have fought Mike for the type of purse that's going to be generated by a Hearns-Duran fight. Tommy's got the WBC belt and Roberto has the WBA title. We're looking at possible unification here. The bout's good for Tommy, and it's good for boxing."

It simply did nothing for McCallum. Then, ostensibly because Duran wasn't fighting the mandatory contender, the WBA stripped him shortly before the Hearns fight. McCallum was matched with the WBA's number-two ranked contender, Sean Mannion. Under Steward's guidance, McCallum started to prepare for the fight. It was Hearns, however, who received most of the attention of both the media and Steward, so McCallum bolted. "He's unmanageable," was all that Steward would say about the affair.

McCallum began working with Lou Duva, Tommy Brooks, and George Benton, who would handle his corner for the Mannion fight.

In June 1984, Hearns destroyed Duran in two brutal rounds and cemented his claim to greatness. Four months later, McCallum easily outboxed Mannion over 15 boring frames to claim a share of the 154-pound title. McCallum immediately called for a match against Hearns. Instead, Hearns set his sights on a bigger challenge and a much bigger payday vs. middleweight king Marvin Hagler.

As it turned out, Hearns engaged in one of boxing's great fights, losing a eight-minute war to Hagler. He would eventually lose in a shocking upset to rugged Iran Barkley, regain his momentum and fight another classic bout against nemesis Sugar Ray Leonard, and eventually win the WBA light heavyweight crown from Virgil Hill. McCallum, meanwhile, began to solidify his reputation as a very good, if not great, fighter by beating better and better competition over the next several years. He gained a measure of revenge against Steward by stopping Kronk fighters David Braxton (KO 8) and Milton McCrory (KO 10) in title defenses. "The Bodysnatcher" would, like Hearns, become a multiple champion by adding the middleweight and light heavyweight titles. But the fight he didn't win was the one to lure Hearns into the ring with him.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

The year 1988 has not been kind to either McCallum or Hearns. McCallum lost a hotly disputed unanimous decision—and the WBA title—to slick-boxing Sumbu Kalambay in his opponent's adopted hometown of Pesaro, Italy. After bloodying and pounding the crude but rugged Barkley for six minutes, Hearns was savaged in the third round, losing the WBC middleweight crown via TKO. The two former champions suddenly find themselves staring in each other's direction. Both need a fight that will propel them back into the spotlight. After the punishment he absorbed in losses to Hagler and Barkley, rumors abound that Hearns is a shot fighter. McCallum's possible opponents are able fighters like Herol Graham, Steve Collins, and Michael Watson. None of them, however, is close to being a household name.

"Mike has always wanted to fight Tom[my]" says Steward at a Las Vegas press confer[ence] announcing the fight, "and he's certainly [earned] the chance. The fight will take place right [here] at Caesars Palace, and it should be a good [one]. When asked why he'd made the match, Stew[ard] responds, "Tommy has a lot left. If he didn't [think] he'd be the first one to tell him to hang 'em up. [He] wants to fight, and I think he'll be a champ[ion] again. But you guys have already decided [that] Thomas is finished, so I have to put him [up] against one of the best in boxing today to [prove] you wrong. And that's Mike McCallum."

When asked if Hearns is fighting to re[store] Kronk's honor in the wake of McCallum's v[ic]tories over Braxton and McCrory, Steward [re]tles: "Don't belittle us, or Mike McCallum, [for] that matter! What happened is in the past. [The] match isn't about me or about Kronk. It's [about] Thomas Hearns and Mike McCallum. Both [of] these guys want to win because both are [great] fighters. A win for either one of them puts [him] back on top. End of story."

McCallum responds a bit differently. "[Of] yes, this is a big fight," he says. "No [doubt] about it. Beating Tommy Hearns will give [me] the recognition I deserve." Then with a smile, [he] adds, "And the recognition I'd have gotten [for] fought and beaten Duran." McCallum pau[ses] and grows serious: "You want to know what [a] fight is all about? One word: Respect. This [fight] is about respect."

Larry Merchant, who will be handling [the] color commentary for the bout, offers an [anal]sis on the eve of the fight: "There are a num[ber] of intriguing factors. Hearns, in spite of his [loss] to Barkley, which can be dismissed as a fluke, [is] the favorite. Is he shot? No. Is he past [his] prime? Probably. He's 30 years old and [has] fought some tough fights in recent years. [But] Hearns still has the skills. He can certain[ly] punch. He's an underrated boxer, a *master* boxer, actually, something that's forgot[ten] because of his awesome power. Has Hearns [lost] the ability to take a punch? Maybe a better [ques]tion is did he ever have a great chin? It [was] never tested early on. Hearns simply dispatch[es] most of his opponents so quickly that they [never] had a chance to hit him a solid shot.

"Even a big banger like Pipino Cuevas [was] made to order for the long-armed Hearns. [If] was a Hearns backer, I'd be worried about [his] legs. If Tommy can box and move for most [of] the 12 rounds, he could certainly win a decision. But will his legs let him do it, especially after [he's] had his midsection attacked by McCallum

bodyshots?

"As for McCallum, he may be one of box- 's most underrated warriors. Had he faced ms three or four years ago, I wouldn't have d his chances as a junior middleweight. Callum hadn't faced tough enough competi- , and Hearns would have been too much the . The bout that's about to unfold should be more competitive. McCallum, two years r than Tommy Hearns, seems to be one of e fighters who gets better with age. Like an ie Moore or Joe Brown. McCallum, we know, has a great chin. He's stood up under eavy artillery of Julian Jackson and Milton Cory, and he's never been down. Also, ke his earlier years, McCallum is more ssive now, not just a clever counterpunch- He's still economical with his punches, but take the fight to an opponent these days. g this in mind: Although McCallum is 32, didn't start his pro career until he was 25. rns, the younger of the two, has been fight- as a pro longer.

"The bettors have made Hearns a 2-1 rite, but I see this as a pick-'em fight. I'd t will be Hearns early or McCallum late. who knows which one it's going to be?"

E FIGHT

ing announcer Michael Buffer approaches icrophone: "Let's get ready to rumbleeeee! ars Palace is proud to bring you tonight's n event, 12 rounds of boxing in the mid- eight division. Your referee is Mills Lane. judges scoring at ringside are Dalby ey, Bob Watson, and Larry O'Connell.

"And now, introducing the principles: In the corner, wearing the gold and red of the d-famous Kronk gym, weighing 161 nds, the former WBA welterweight and , super welterweight champion of the d Thomas "The Hit Man" Hearrrrrns! And e red corner, wearing black trunks with gold and weighing 160½ pounds, the former junior middleweight champion of the d, Mike "The Bodysnatcher" Mc- mmm!"

Round 1: After a stirring stare-down, both rs come out fast. McCallum is bobbing weaving. He feints, and Hearns dances Hearns flicks the jab, but it comes up . McCallum is stalking as Hearns shows ent movement. Hearns lands with a jab, cCallum's counter is blocked. There's jab by Hearns and a big right that grazes p of McCallum's head. McCallum has s on the ropes. McCallum lands his trade- mark hook to the body, but he gets in only one shot as Hearns neatly escapes. The fighters are back in ring-center. Hearns lands another jab. McCallum misses with a right. Hearns fires a stinging jab and follows with a beautiful straight right and hook. McCallum clinches, though he doesn't appear hurt. McCallum throws a combination that is blocked.

Round 2: McCallum chugs ahead. Hearns scores with his jab. He jabs again, but McCallum slips it nicely. Hearns is on his toes, boxing smoothly. He jabs again, but this time McCallum times it and counters with his best shot thus far, a right to the head. McCallum gets inside and fires two thudding shots to the lean torso of Hearns. Hearns ties him up. Lane moves to separate them, but the fighters pull apart on their own. Hearns scores with his jab yet again, then an uppercut from outside. Hearns launches an overhand right that misses. McCallum tries to jab. The fighters exchange blows: Hearns connects with a hook to the head, while McCallum blasts away at the body.

Round 3: Hearns is working the jab to perfection. McCallum has to get inside, and he hasn't yet had much success. Worse yet, when he does get inside, he's paying a price. McCallum lands a nice right lead. Hearns has yet to stand and trade. He's moving like he's 20 instead of 30. McCallum bulls him into the ropes. McCallum drives in a left and right to the ribs. They're solid punches, but Hearns spins McCallum nicely and scores with a hook. Suddenly, a big right seems to have stunned McCallum. Hearns is winging punches now. McCallum's covering well. Hearns goes to the body. McCallum tries to punch back and lands a right. There's a clinch, and Hearns can't work loose. Lane separates the two. McCallum lands another right. Hearns rips two clean shots to the head. The fighters glare at each other at the bell.

Round 4: McCallum shows some minor swelling around his left eye. Hearns is like an assembly line machine—jab, jab, jab. Most of the punches are scoring. McCallum continues to be the pursuer; he's clearly having trouble cutting off the ring because Hearns is moving so well. McCallum scores with a jab of his own. Hearns misses with a jab. McCallum comes inside and works the body. Hearns retreats. He tags McCallum and moves outside. It is a slow round.

Round 5: The fight has been mostly Hearns, though McCallum has tried to live up to his nickname. Hearns lands a cross over a lazy McCallum jab. He catches McCallum cleanly, but McCallum takes it well. McCallum scores with a three-punch combination that makes Hearns hold on. That's the most effective burst McCallum has been able to come up with to this point. McCallum mauls Hearns inside. Now Hearns is standing flatfooted. Hearns punches upstairs, but his right and left are blocked. McCallum punches to the ribcage and Hearns clearly winces. Hearns catches McCallum with a picture-perfect uppercut in close. McCallum takes a step back. Hearns wings a hook that connects and a right cross. McCallum wobbles. Hearns misses with another right hand. McCallum fires a combination to the head. Now it's Hearns who tries to move away. McCallum misses at the bell. Most of the fans are on their feet and screaming.

Round 6: McCallum charges across the ring, and Hearns dances away. Hearns is moving but not punching. McCallum chases "The Hit Man." Hearns sets, fires, and misses. McCallum works the body with digging shots. The swelling around his eye is more pronounced. Hearns finally lands a jab. McCallum is standing in the middle of the ring. Hearns circles but won't get too close. McCallum tries to close the gap. The crowd boos the inactivity.

Round 7: Hearns is in ring-center and motioning for McCallum to bring it on. The Jamaican-born fighter obliges, and Hearns stops him cold with a three-punch combination. There's a slight cut above McCallum's left eye. McCallum slips a jab and counters with a sharp blow to the head. Hearns' back leg buckles. He looks hurt. McCallum hesitates before storming in. There's a barrage of punches. McCallum's counter right must have had a delayed effect. Hearns is fighting back. There's an exchange of lefts. McCallum's punch gets there first and has more on it. Hearns goes back to the ropes. McCallum rips shots to the body.

Round 8: Hearns is slow coming out of his corner. He's not moving much. Hearns lands his ever-present jab. When he misses, he ties up McCallum up before The Bodysnatcher can move inside. Hearns won't break the clinch, even with Lane yelling and slapping at his glove. The fighters finally separate. Hearns snaps off a jab and lands a hook to the head and a short right uppercut to the chest. Hearns is winging punches now. McCallum, in a purely defensive mode, is ducking and swaying. Hearns probes with his right. There's another big left by Hearns. McCallum doubles up on his hook, first to the body, then to the head.

Round 9: McCallum is bleeding from the cut over his left eye as he answers the bell.

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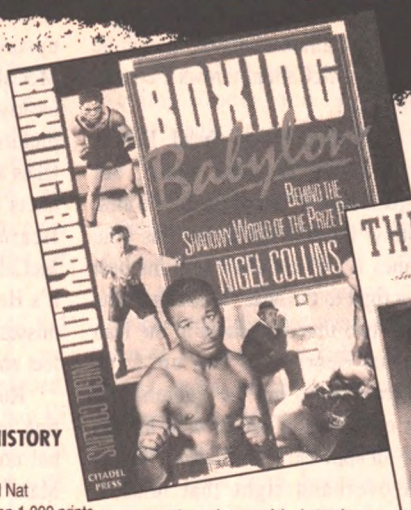

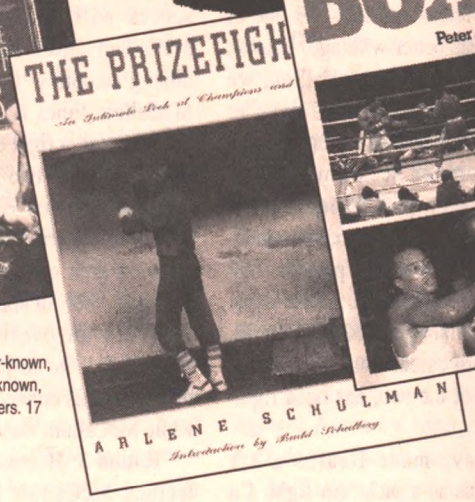

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3606

What If ...

(Continued from page 59)

rns targets the wound with his jab. Hearns
is McCallum's charge. Hearns is moving
jabbing. McCallum looks very calm. Now
Callum has Hearns trapped in a neutral cor-
McCallum scores with a clean headshot.
rns pushes McCallum back, but can't get out
e corner. McCallum bores in and does some
ed work to the body. Hearns bounces a
cross off the top of his opponent's head.

Round 10: Hearns wants to box, but
Callum's not letting him. It doesn't look like
rns' legs can keep him away. Hearns jabs,
scores with a cross. McCallum misses with
f right, and Hearns misses with a sweeping
of his own. McCallum lands a heavy shot to
chest. Hearns misses again. McCallum zeroes
th a left to the body, then adds a right to the
Hearns goes backward, but somehow stays
ght. McCallum is all over him. He measures
rns and lands three good punches. Refusing
down, Hearns lands a right, but there isn't
ch on it. Hearns tries with a short left.
Callum hooks to the body, prompting Hearns
ab for him. McCallum backs up a step and
Hearns with a right cross. Hearns is down!
picks up the count. When he reaches eight,
rns is standing. Lane motions the fighters
her. McCallum walks through a Hearns jab
ggers him at the bell.

Round 11: Hearns is making one last stand
middle of the ring. His legs look shaky.
nches immediately when McCallum tries
inside. Now McCallum is outjabbing
rns. McCallum lands a left downstairs.
rns lands a straight right that snaps back
Callum's head. He again leads with his right.
ake! McCallum steps inside and hurts
rns with a left to the jaw. Hearns' legs are
two rubber bands. A bodyshot drops him to
nee. Hearns picks himself up as Lane
nisters a mandatory count. Hearns keeps
ing, but a right to the side of the head puts
own again. He rolls over on his back. Is
ven going to count? Hearns lurches to his
the count of nine. Lane talks to him, then
rns Hearns to walk toward him. When
staggers forward, Lane stops the bout.
llum wins by TKO at 1:47 of the round.

AFTERMATH

Dejected Hearns announces his retirement at the postfight press conference. "Enough," says the ever-gracious Hearns. "That's enough. My hat's off to Mike McCallum. But it's time for me to enjoy what I've gotten out of boxing. Nothing's going to change my mind."

Nothing except the lure of a rematch with Sugar Ray Leonard. Leonard resumes his career after surgery to repair a detached retina. The thought of revenge is enough to bring The Hit Man out of retirement.

McCallum gets everything he wants out of the fight: recognition, as well as a shot at Herol Graham's middleweight crown.

Says the winner, "God is in his Heaven and all is right with the world." ■

Pettway-Brown

(Continued from page 31)

"Pettway's not a quitter," Lewis said. "When he gets hurt, he fights hard. One thing about Vincent, he was in tip-top shape. That's how he got off the canvas in the first round."

"His edge was he believed, 'I'm going down fighting,'" said Pettway's wife Kathy. "He could have said, 'What they said was true—I'll just lay here.'"

If there was a crucial mistake in the fight, Brown made it in the second round. A poker-faced stoic no matter the conditions, Brown's fighting has always belied his emotions. Brimming with confidence, he's content to stalk and play on an opponent's fear; hurt or in trouble, he'll turn up the heat and let his hands go.

Having decked Pettway in the opening stanza, Brown came out for the second looking like a fighter just getting in some rounds in the gym. Pettway warily circled in double-time, still teetering and unable to settle down. But after two minutes—and still nothing bad had happened to him—Pettway decided to test the waters and get back into the fight. Brown landed a right to Pettway's head, and the champion planted his feet and missed with a right to the body. Brown worked Pettway into the ropes with a jab, and Pettway responded with a double-jab and danced away. Near the round's end, Pettway stepped in and scored with a left-right combination, and just like that, two of the judges gave him the round.

"I wasn't getting off my game plan," Pettway said. "The agenda was different, very important in this fight. With Rosi, I didn't stray from the agenda; I wanted to jump on him from beginning to end. With Simon, I wanted to box, box, box all night long."

Pettway began finding a rhythm early in the third round. Known throughout his career for fast feet and a pumping jab (and, of course, that suspect chin), his reputation for power has always been shortchanged. This fight should change that.

With 69 seconds remaining in the round, Pettway flashed a counter overhand right that

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sent Brown, 43-4 (31), crashing for only the third time in his career. Surprised and a bit shaken, the challenger was up at the count of eight and right back to the attack. But now Pettway, 38-4-1 (31) with 1 no-contest, was full of fire and punching away, all the time showing Brown different angles and managing to stay out of danger.

With 35 seconds left in the round, Pettway again hurt Brown with a right. As the bell sounded, Pettway had one of the finest warriors of the past 10 years with his back to the ropes and greatly troubled.

Brown renewed his attack on the circling Pettway in the fourth. The crowd, rocking from the earlier action, took up the chant, "Simon! Simon!" After a warning for hitting on the break, Brown hurt Pettway with a jab. He tried to force his adversary to the ropes, but the champion easily spun away. While he didn't generate much offense in the round, Pettway did the next-best thing: He defused Brown's effort to swing the momentum back his way.

In the fifth, order was lost. Brown immediately began roughhousing, and midway through the round, he worked Pettway to the ropes and smacked him low with a hard right. Pettway screamed to the referee over Brown's left shoulder, and the challenger took full advantage and unleashed a barrage of shots that knocked out Pettway's mouthpiece and drove him through the ropes for a knockdown.

His head clear, Pettway climbed back into the ring and yelled at Klingmeyer, "Low blow, man! He hit me with a low blow!" The referee gave him plenty of time to recover—much more than eight seconds—and as soon as the fight resumed, Pettway hit Brown in the groin with a left. After a warning, the fighters went to war. Brown sustained a cut over his right eye, but managed to land several heavy shots.

The bell didn't stop the action, as the fighters continued to punch away, with Klingmeyer too far out of position to break them up. Finally, Brown turned to walk to his corner, but Pettway chased him and landed another shot. Brown's trainer, Aaron Snowell, leaped into the ring and yanked Pettway aside, then lit into Klingmeyer. Pettway sat down in his corner, a cut having opened over his right eye.

The sixth round promised just as much action, but no one could have predicted the shocking ending. An agitated Brown stormed out of his corner and missed with a haymaker hook. Seconds later, he threw—and missed again—with a huge sweeping right.

Halfway through the round, Brown scored with a right and followed through with a headbutt that sent Pettway stumbling from mid-ring into the ropes. Klingmeyer called time to give the champion a chance to recover. Few in the crowd (or Brown's corner) had seen the butt, and Klingmeyer failed to signal why he was holding up the fight.

When the action resumed, confusion gave way to mayhem. Brown marched right in, and Pettway stepped up with a double-jab, then missed with a soft right over the top that set him up perfectly to come back with a big hook. Brown, meanwhile, countered Pettway's right with a straight right to the chest, but Pettway, still in motion, exploded a hook off Brown's head.

In a storied pro career that dates back to 1982, Brown had never been knocked out. But this powerpunch sent the back of his head violently slamming off the canvas. Unconscious, he instinctively began a sickening display of shadowboxing. The time of the kayo was 2:07.

The judges were Larry Barrett, Larry Dogget, and Sylvester Stevens, all from the USA.

Brown's corner couldn't contain its anger. How could Klingmeyer have allowed Pettway so much time to recover when Brown had him in trouble? Manager Carl King flew into a rage at the referee.

"What I said to him was that he needs to retire," King said later. "I represent Simon Brown, but I'm about what's right. Simon had Vincent in a little trouble, and [Klingmeyer] sent Simon to the neutral corner. And for what? To give him a chance."

At the postfight press conference, a weary-looking Don King compared Pettway's response to his two knockdowns to John Paul Jones'—"I have not yet begun to fight."

"Give me the opportunity to show I can get up and fight," Pettway said. "I took some good shots tonight—not that I want to continue to take good shots.

"Early in my career, all I did was move. I've become a big knockout artist. I don't know where it came from."

Big talk, but Pettway is becoming a big man on the boxing block. He spoke of wanting to annex Luis Santana's WBC title (Pettway won a 10-round decision over Santana in 1989), and some of the media tried to drum up talk of a match with former champion Terry Norris.

Pettway basked in the attention and newfound respect. The questions weren't about his chin anymore.

"This is very sweet," he said with a smile. ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to* THE RING, *is based in Washington, D.C.

George Latka

(Continued from page 45)

Education was a priority with Latka, and of his goals was to become a teacher.

"I needed to go to school," he said. Depression had a real effect on me. We were poor we got thrown out of our house onto seemed like teachers were the only ones a paycheck. They were getting $200 a m and that was a lot of money then."

Eventually he would receive a B.S. degr education and become known as "The Fi Professor." But Latka's first stab at a co education ended after one year, when his took one on the chin.

"I fell in love with some chick, and sh [San Jose] and I quit," said Latka. "I just g lonely, I couldn't stand it anymore."

He headed south to the City of Angels.

"I landed in a flop house and had some teur fights, and they were so tough, I said hell with it, I'm turning pro. Instead of $3 a fight, I'll make $19.' "

Latka's first two pro bouts in 1957 draws. Then he went on a 14-bout winning that made him one of the hottest lightweig the Golden State.

The money wasn't the only improve over the amateurs.

"I liked the pros because I'm a thi fighter," said Latka. "There were three-m rounds. That was my meat. I like to come last half-minute and wear 'em out."

He also liked to knock them out, and in Latka kayoed four of his first five oppon Then he decisioned a hardcase called Tu Romero in a 10-rounder that changed his ing forever about how to fight.

"He had a baby face, and I'm sayi myself, 'I'm gonna knock this guy o recalled Latka. "But when the fight was o looked like I got killed. He didn't have a on him. I decided right then that never was I gonna go out and slug with somebod

In the rest of his boxing career—29 ba Latka scored only two more knockouts. Bu feinted, sidestepped, and counterpunched way to decision wins over more than a fe the best fighters of that era, including one featherweight champions Baby Arizm Petey Scalzo, and Richie Lemos.

"I'd stand right there and slip and b and counterpunch," said Latka. "And I

stiff jab."

His slick ways in the ring didn't only leave impression on the men Latka fought. One day 940, after he'd been sparring at the Main t Gym in downtown Los Angeles, Latka approached by an old, pudgy black man d been watching him in the training ring.

"What's your name, boy?" inquired the old with a big smile. When Latka told him, the fied visitor offered his hand.

"Shake," he said. "You're the greatest sive fighter I ever seen."

Latka shook and then started back to busi- when somebody else came up and asked if knew the identity of the man who'd just wed such a compliment. Latka didn't know.

"That's Jack Johnson, the greatest defensive er who ever lived," he was informed.

The tribute from perhaps the most talented er ever to hold the heavyweight champi- ip of the world, a genius who wore a smile most of his fights because it was so easy and to pick off his opponents' punches, "forced to become an even greater defensive fight- Latka said.

In 214 fights, amateur and professional, Latka er touched the canvas with anything but his His defensive skills accounted for that, and d a chin like the prow of an ocean liner.

"I had an iron chin," he said. "I weighed pounds at birth, and my mother used to say pounds of it was chin."

But neither his wonderful defensive attribut- nor the fact that in 1940 he was rated among top three lightweights in the world, were ugh to get Latka a title shot. The great ding champion Ed "Strangler" Lewis want- to promote a fight between Latka and cham- Sammy Angott for the NBA 135-pound , but the established boxing promoters con- ed the commission to nix the idea.

Six months later, in November 1940, Latka Angott in a non-title fight in San Francisco.

"He was a bull," Latka said of the fighter named "The Clutch." "He mauled. I had to in flurries. It could have gone either way."

The fight was a draw.

Latka's voice breaks when he is asked if he hurt that he never got to fight for the world pionship.

"Very, very, very," he says. "I want to cry ."

***

In the '40s, the motion picture crowd was a re at ringside bouts at the Hollywood n Stadium, and Latka was one of the stars' ite stars. Movie tough guy George Raft was so taken with him, in fact, that in 1940 he purchased Latka's contract from Joe Herman. But the steely-eyed actor was no tough guy off-camera and was soon being taken advantage of by his partners in Latka's management. The new arrangement was the beginning of the end for Latka's career.

"George Raft was just a prince of a guy," Latka recalls, "but I missed my old associates. I missed Joe Herman. I knew more about boxing than these [new] guys. I was never comfortable with them in my corner. I got disgusted. They cut me 50 percent, and George Raft never got his money. I told them, 'I want George getting his money or I'm gonna quit.'"

And just like that, and right on the heels of successive victories over former champions Scalzo and Lemos (six days apart), Latka kissed it all goodbye.

That wasn't all of it, of course. It was 1942, and World War II was in session. "I felt guilty as hell," said the immigrants' son. So he abandoned his peaking career and went to work in a defense plant from midnight to 6 a.m. In the daytime he attended UCLA, graduating in 1944. Then the man who once envied teachers and their fabulous $200-a-month salaries started teaching himself in junior high school for that exact same amount. He discovered it wasn't such a great life after all.

A year later, Latka retired from his second career. He started training and managing boxers, and also began playing his own tough-guy roles in the movies.

In the early-'50s, he went back into the ring, this time as a referee. This third career lasted 28 years, and his expert, no-nonsense officiating, both as a third man in the ring and as a boxing judge, probably made Latka even more famous than when he wore boxing gloves to work.

"Also infamous," he adds sadly.

"I was unlucky enough to referee Davey Moore when he got killed in the ring," Latka said, recalling the night in March 1963, when featherweight champion Moore died after losing the title to Sugar Ramos in Los Angeles.

Latka stopped the fight after Moore, whom he calls "the most perfect and durable specimen I've ever seen"—was knocked down and his head bounced off the lowest ring rope. Moore appeared okay after the 10th-round stoppage and even talked with reporters in his dressing room. But then he collapsed, and it was subsequently discovered that the fall in the ring had severed his brain stem. He died the next day.

Latka estimates he refereed thousands of

(Continued on page 64)

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George Latka

(Continued from page 63)

fights, and he was either referee or a judge in 35 world title bouts in the days before the proliferation of sanctioning bodies made championship bouts about as common as hemorrhoid commercials on TV.

"I loved the refereeing because I thought I knew more about boxing than anyone involved," he said. "The most important thing is to protect the fighters all the time."

Sometimes that meant displeasing the customers who figured they had a better perspective on things from their seats outside the ring.

"I didn't give a damn what people thought," Latka says. "I slept every night because I knew I'd done the best I could."

A few years ago, when referee Richard Steele was viciously attacked for stopping the first Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor title fight with two seconds to go after Taylor, ahead on points, had been floored by Chavez, Latka called the embattled Steele the next day.

"I said, 'Rich, how did you sleep last night? As long as you're sleeping well, don't worry about what anybody says.' I thought he did a hell of a job in that fight. Sometimes one more punch could kill a guy."

Latka never let anything get in the way of his calling things the way he saw them. In 1971, that cost him both a friend and a movie job.

His was among the votes that gave world welterweight champion Jose Napoles a close but unanimous decision over Hedgemon Lewis in a title fight at the Fabulous Forum. Afterward, actor Ryan O'Neal, who was Lewis' manager and a good friend of Latka's, ranted and swore at him for scoring for Napoles. Two months later, when Latka was signed up to play the part of the referee in a boxing scene in the film *The Main Event*, which starred O'Neal and Barbra Streisand, the volatile actor ordered him off the set and vowed Latka would never work in one of his pictures.

Another time he had to choose professionalism over friendship came when Latka refereed a fight between Amos "Big Train" Lincoln and Henry Clark.

"For the first two or three rounds they did real well," he said. "Then all of a sudden they started waltzing. I warned them two, three times and finally gave them an ultimatum: 'You can't B.S. me. I know when you're pulling punches. You guys aren't trying to hit each other.' But they kept it up and I threw 'em both out of the ring."

Clark was managed by Joe Herman, Latka's beloved former ring pilot. "I had to do this to my own buddy, and that's what hurt me most," he said. "They were grooming Big Train Lincoln for a [Muhammad] Ali fight, and I killed it. I got a lot of menacing phone calls, and they put flyers on cars that said, 'Get rid of George Latka.' I didn't give a s__. It didn't bother me a bit."

George and Trudie Latka have been married for 21 years, and in boxing circles she is well-known and respected as her husband. And Trudie is equally capable of standing up for what she believes is right. The Latkas operated a tavern, The Golden Glove, in Huntington Beach. Not long after the second Muhammad Ali-Ken Norton fight in September 1973, which Latka was the sole judge to score for Norton, a man came into the bar, ordered a beer and began to loudly prove how much he didn't know about boxing. He was particularly hard on Norton, and finally Trudie had heard enough.

"You think you know more than you do," she said to the bigmouth. "If you say one more word I'm going to pour this beer over your head."

The fool persisted and, as promised, Trudie soaked him.

"It was," she emphasizes with a touch of pride, "a quart schooner."

Latka's refereeing and judging career ended in 1979 because, Trudie says, "he fell in love with a fighter and he was too honest. The law says you can't be a manager of record and a referee."

"I thought I had a world champion," he says of light heavyweight Daryl Huntly. "He punched like you wouldn't believe."

But on defense the guy was no George Latka, and when that didn't work out, the California commission invited Latka back as a referee. He opted to continue training fighters instead. None of them panned out, either, but there are no regrets.

"I have lived a great, great, great and exciting life," he says.

He worries that, today, too many fighters' lives in the ring are too exciting.

"I don't see too many fakes or moves," says Latka. "They all want to be crowd-pleasers. I've seen a lot of these crowd-pleasers who, now, aren't too good."

He means who can't walk or talk too good, much less box three rounds on their 80th birthday.

And much less announce afterward, "I could've gone two more!"

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to **THE RING,** ***is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.***

BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

He would have been 100 years old in June. For a while, many of his fans and admirers would have bet that he'd make the century mark. But he passed away with dignity at age 88. He was a true legend and a boxing original. He was William Harrison Dempsey, known to all as Jack.

He got the name not from the Nonpareil Jack Dempsey, as is widely believed, but from his brother, who had taken that moniker from the great middleweight. When his brother stopped boxing, William took the name as his own after first fighting as "Kid Blackie."

Like most legends, Dempsey is highly collectible and has left us with a wealth of memorabilia. Rather than recounting his life and career, which is documented in at least six biographies and autobiographies (try *Dempsey, By The Man Himself)*, let's take a look at the rarest and most sought-after memorabilia. Then we'll examine the more affordable stuff.

The programs and tickets for many of Dempsey's championship fights can still be found. Here are some guidelines. The first price is for a program, the second for a full ticket.

Dempsey-Willard: $1,000/$150
Dempsey-Miske: $1,500/never seen one
Dempsey-Brennan: never seen one/$1,000
Dempsey-Carpentier: $550/$650
Dempsey-Gibbons: $450/$150
Dempsey-Firpo: $450/$450
Dempsey-Tunney I: $500/$550
Dempsey-Tunney II: $500/$550
Dempsey-Sharkey: $300/$500
Dempsey-Lutrell: never seen one/$450
Any Dempsey exhibition: $300/$100

Dempsey posters are almost unheard of. Two that have been found: The Gibbons poster will sell for about $2,000, and the Lutrell poster for about $1,500. If you could find a legitimate Dempsey-Tunney poster in nice condition, it would probably sell for $5,000 or more.

A signed Dempsey glove (not fight-worn) may sell for $700 or more. A legitimate fight-worn glove with clear and established provenance might go for more than $2,000, especially if signed.

A signed photo dated by Dempsey while he was world heavyweight champion will sell for about $300. A non-vintage signed photo goes for about $85.

Now for the other end of the memorabilia spectrum. There are lots of Dempsey boxing cards, some printed as recently as a few years ago, that can be had for a buck or so. Some of the older cards are pretty expensive, unless you don't mind a crease. Vintage photos sell for about $20 or $30 each. Vintage postcards go for about that, too.

Some folks like memorabilia from the restaurant Dempsey ran for many years in Manhattan. The postcards from that eatery can be had for about $7-10 each. Signed by Dempsey, they're worth about $30. There are also menus, napkins, ash trays, even Dempsey's own brand of whiskey, if you're into that kind of stuff.

There are other peripheral items. Dempsey was in some movies, as well as serials such as *Daredevil Jack* and *Fight To Win*. He also had cameo appearances in other productions, such as *Mr. Broadway*, and he performed on stage with his wife, Estelle Taylor. Accompanying programs and posters are available. There's even sheet music with Dempsey on the cover.

Moreover, there are ad pieces from the '20s through at least the '40s. Dempsey appeared as a spokesman for lots of items, from Rippled Wheat to beer. There was even a Dempsey candy bar at one time.

If you include all the magazine articles and books written on Dempsey, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of things to collect. Happy 100th, Jack. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of March 1995, and the WBC ratings and IBF ratings were compiled as of April 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	–	–
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	7	8
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	4	11
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	1	7
Joe Hipp (USA)	5	5	3
Henry Akinwande (GB)	6	8	9
Frank Bruno (GB)	7	–	–
Francois Botha (SA)	8	3	1
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	9	11	–
Peter McNeeley (USA)	10	9	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	2	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	12	6	2
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	19	10	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	18	–	4
Corrie Sanders (SA)	14	–	5
Andrew Golota (POL)	15	12	6
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Carl Thompson (GB)	1	3	4
Robert Daniels (USA)	2	5	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	3	4	5
Dennis Andries (GB)	4	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	5	–	–
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	6	7	7
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	–	10
Mark Randazzo (USA)	8	–	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	9	6	–
Nate Miller (USA)	10	10	3
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	–	1	2
Adolpho Washington (USA)	21	2	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	20	8	–
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	–	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1
Torsten May (GER)	13	–	6
Andre Purlet (GUY)	–	–	8
John Andrade (USA)	28	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	2	4	–
Gary Delaney (GB)	3	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	4	7	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	5	–	4
Christophe Girard (FRA)	6	–	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	7	–	–
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	8	–	3
Jose Gomez (BRA)	9	6	–
Ginger Tshabalala (SA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	27	1	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	3	2
Frank Tate (USA)	12	5	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	8	1
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	25	10	–
James Toney (USA)	11	–	5
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	–	–	6
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	7
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	8
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	–	–	9
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	21	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	8	–
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	4
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	3	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	4	12	6
Michael Nunn (USA)	5	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	6	–	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	7	–	–
Luciano Torres (BRA)	8	4	–
Cecil McKenzie (USA)	9	–	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	10	9	10
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	29	2	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	–	3	5
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	5	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	6	–
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	–	7	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	17	10	–
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	1
Tony Thornton (USA)	13	11	2
Bryant Brannon (USA)	22	–	3
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	–	–	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	–	–	8
Darrin Allen (USA)	30	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	9	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	2	5	4
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	3	11	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	4	8	3
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	5	–	12
Neville Brown (GB)	6	–	10
Silvio Branco (ITA)	7	–	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	8	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	9	10	5
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	10	4	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	11	1	1
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	3	2
William Joppy (USA)	22	6	6
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	7	1
Miguel Viloria (COL)	–	–	8

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luis Santana (DR)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	2	2	1
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	3	3	12
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	4	4	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	5	8	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	6	6	8
Winky Wright (USA)	7	5	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	8	–	2
Carl Daniels (USA)	9	1	–
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	10	–	–
Buddy McGirt (USA)	–	7	9
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	11	9	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	10	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	23	–	4
Raul Marquez (USA)	17	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	11	–
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	–
Simon Brown (USA)	–	12	–

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	–
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	2	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	4	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	6	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	5	12	–
Buddy McGirt (USA)	6	–	–
Valery Kayumba (FRA)	7	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	8	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	9	7	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	10	3	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	–	8	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	9	–
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	10	–
James Hughes (USA)	–	–	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	–

LTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
ar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Zayu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
mma (USA)	1	3	2
man (SA)	2	6	4
ada (COL)	3	4	1
yson (USA)	4	11	3
go (ARG)	5	2	–
illou (FRA)	6	1	–
ares (ARG)	7	–	–
(GB)	8	12	–
Parisi (ITA)	9	9	9
dergaard (DEN)	10	–	–
ield (USA)	–	5	5
ent (USA)	–	7	–
acobsen (DEN)	16	8	–
Zhebela (SA)	–	10	–
rguez (USA)	20	–	6
era (USA)	21	–	7
illa (COL)	–	–	8
Sisili (ITA)	–	–	10

WBA
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WBA
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WBA
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VEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
ngel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
dan (USA)	–	–	C
dio (COL)	1	1	1
ot Mendy (FRA)	2	–	8
Johnson (USA)	3	2	6
rchena (MEX)	4	–	9
ley (USA)	5	–	–
dowski (USA)	6	–	–
lva (ARG)	7	–	–
dory (SA)	8	5	2
nton (USA)	9	–	12
son (USA)	10	12	5
Tarsreh (INDO)	21	3	–
kamoto (JAP)	16	4	–
wal (DEN)	17	6	–
che (USA)	25	7	–
vera (PR)	–	8	–
(KOR)	–	9	–
ey (PHIL)	–	10	–
Molina (PR)	–	–	3
(USA)	–	–	4
dimon (COL)	–	–	7
acios (COL)	–	–	10

ITWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
dias (USA)	C	–	–
ernandez (USA)	–	C	–
	–	–	C
kson (GHA)	1	3	5
xandrov (RUS)	2	6	11
(USA)	3	–	3
s Leija (USA)	4	7	6
son (TRIN)	5	12	–
ma (FRA)	6	9	–
ca (COL)	7	5	–
Choi (KOR)	8	2	–
ren (USA)	9	–	–
ández (USA)	10	–	–
go Paz (ARG)	–	1	–
(USA)	–	4	2
ord (GB)	19	8	–
ilia (BRA)	–	10	–
ma (COL)	–	–	1
iguez (DR)	–	–	4
nez (COL)	–	–	7
ad (COL)	–	–	8
ov (RUS)	13	–	9
ano (COL)	–	–	10

EIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
(VEN)	–	C	–
ne (USA)	–	–	C
(MEX)	1	9	–
ti (USA)	2	7	4
(COL)	3	3	1
(PR)	4	6	7
ren (USA)	5	–	–
ings (USA)	6	–	6
(USA)	7	–	2
(PHIL)	8	8	–
(ARG)	9	–	–
ina (MEX)	10	–	11

Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	1	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	12	2	3
Orlando Soto (PAN)	15	4	9
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	5	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	11	10	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Francisco Segura (USA)	20	12	8
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Jesus Salud (USA)	1	9	6
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	3	11	9
Naseem Hamed (GB)	4	5	–
Julio Gervacio (DR)	5	12	10
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	6	–	–
Eddie Croft (USA)	7	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	8	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	9	–	–
Maui Diaz (USA)	10	–	8
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	–	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	19	3	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	4	4
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	11	6	–
Junior Jones (USA)	14	7	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	8	–
Juan Polo Perez (COL)	–	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	16	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	12	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	5
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	7

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	7	4
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	5	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	6	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	–	7
Roberto Moran (ARG)	5	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	6	–	–
John Armour (GB)	7	11	8
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	8	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	9	9	–
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	10	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Jorge Julio (COL)	13	3	10
Abraham Torres (VEN)	23	4	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	27	8	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	22	10	–
Sergio Reyes (USA)	19	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	21	–	2
Naseem Hamed (GB)	–	–	3
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	5
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	6
John Lowey (GB)	–	–	9

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	9	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	3	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	3	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	4	5	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	5	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	6	–	5
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	7	–	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	8	–	1
David Griman (VEN)	9	4	–
David Serradas (VEN)	10	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	12	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	6	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	30	8	–
Sol Ploenchit (PAN)	–	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	2
Jose Diaz (USA)	24	–	3
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	20	–	4
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	6
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	7
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	8
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	9
Domingo Sosa (DR)	18	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	11	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	5
Hugo Soto (ARG)	3	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	4	–	12
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	5	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	6	10	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	7	6	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	9	5	9
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	26	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	3	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	25	4	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	7	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	8	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	9	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	17	12	1
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	2
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	3
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	–	4
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	–	7
Luis Benavides (COL)	23	–	8
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	8	2
Michael Carbajal (USA)	2	2	4
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	6	12
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	1	1
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	5	–	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	–	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	7	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	8	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	7	6
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	10	4	7
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	–	3	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	11	5	–
Puma Kanehira (MEX)	–	9	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	10	–
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	3
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	5
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	8
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	22	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	23	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	2	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	2	–	11
Kermin Guardia (COL)	3	3	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	4	7	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	5	8	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	6	10	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	7	12	3
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	8	4	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	9	9	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	10	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	16	1	4
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	5	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	6	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	2
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	5
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	12	–	6
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	7
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	8
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	18	–	9
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	10

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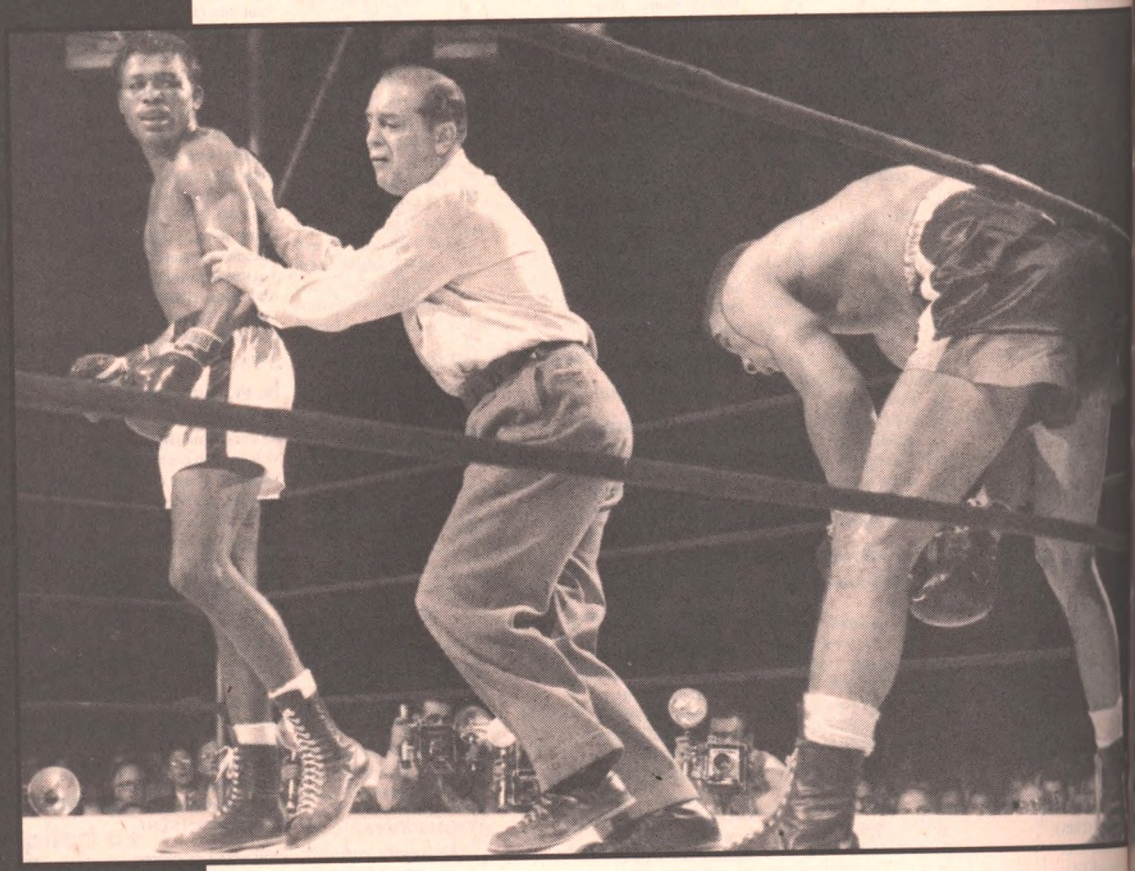
ROBINSON KING AGAIN!



Referee Ruby Goldstein is acclaimed for fine judgment in stopping the Sugar Ray Robinson-Randy Turpin fight in the 10th round

From THE RING, November 1951

Nat Fleischer

Sugar Ray Robinson, who, prior to his loss of the middleweight title to Randy Turpin in London, was long acclaimed as the greatest exponent of pugilism in many years, won back his crown and his admirers when he battered his erstwhile conqueror into a helpless mass in the 10th of their return engagement in the New York's Polo Grounds. Referee Ruby Goldstein halted the contest with only eight seconds left in the 10th round.

It wasn't "the gangsters," as many of the British scribes had predicted, who relieved Randy of his title, but the flaying fists of an infuriated challenger who "saw red" after a butt, similar to the one he suffered in London, that had caused the blood to spurt from a head wound.

Ray didn't need any help from the peddlers, gangsters, and other shady characters," as British sportswriters had predicted would be the case if he failed to win. All he required was the fine physical condition in which he found himself, a condition that enabled him to overcome youth, determination, and the powerful body and hefty wallops of the man who had brought about the greatest upset of the year by outclassing Ray on July 10 last.

This time things were different. Though Randy gave his opponent a tough battle as far as it went, the master of Sugar Ray was ever in evidence.

Before a gathering of 61,370 persons, a crowd that had paid a record $767,360 for a fight under the heavyweight class, Robinson brought back the crown to America with as savage an attack in the final round as has been seen in a New York ring in years.

At the time of referee Goldstein's action, Turpin was an open target. He was defenseless. He couldn't move away from the ropes, where he was leaning against the lower strand, nor could he toss even one punch while standing under the vicious, blazing drive of a relentless foe.

***

Infuriated by the sight of his own gore, brought on by the accidental butt, Ray was the killer. Despite the wailings of Randy's camp followers, who protested bitterly in the dressing room that with only eight seconds to go, Goldstein shouldn't have stopped the fight, it was the proper action to take.

Teddy Waltham, one of Britain's greatest referees, who now serves as secretary of the British Board of Boxing Control, when asked to comment on the referee's action replied, "It was proper. I would have done the same. Randy was defenseless. Too bad it had to be that way, but the referee did the correct thing."

Not that Randy was severely hurt. He showed no effects of the beating he took in those final two minutes, but he was unable to protect himself against a bombardment that might have resulted in another fatality.

The referee was no timer. He didn't know, nor did he have to think, about the time remaining. His job was to protect a helpless man, and he did it as it should have been done.

Randy had been dropped in the 10th with a vicious right to the jaw. When he got to his feet, Ray went berserk. It was the fury of a seasoned, veteran ring master.

Ray bombarded Turpin from all angles. He knew that he had to win then, or take his chances on defeat.

After an accidental butt opened a hideous cut over Robinson's left eye, the challenger knew he had little time to score a dramatic knockout. So he accelerated his attack and confirmed his greatness by doing just that.

Ray realized, as he remarked in his dressing room, that he was tiring and that the cut might become worse. He went after his man with fire in his eyes. His teeth clenched, his hair mussed, and standing almost upright, his face tensed for action, he struck, and he won.

***

Ray beat Randy about the head. He crashed a barrage that had turned Turpin from a fighting champion who had been holding his opponent fairly even, into a defenseless titleholder who, with his hands on his sides, body resting against the ropes, permitted blow after blow to reach its objective.

Only once did Randy land a punch in retaliation during more than one minute of Ray's bombardment. It was a right to the chin that crashed with lethal force and caused Robinson's knees to buckle. He bent as if to fall. Ray followed with both arms swinging, and a right and left landed Turpin near the ropes.

Taking full advantage of the situation, Ray now unloosed an avalanche of punches that brought down Randy's guard. But before that happened, Randy did get over one hefty left to the jaw that shook Ray.

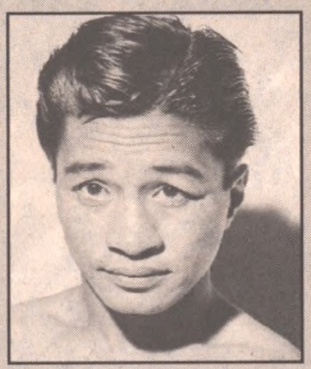
The challenger quickly recovered. He crashed a right to the jaw, and down went Turpin.

The champion dragged himself to one kn and took a count of nine. Then Randy got to h feet and became a target that showed the tr Robinson—not the one I had seen lose h crown in London, but the Robinson of yore.

Ray cut loose while Randy was sitting the lower strand, arms at his sides, body swa ing in an effort to avoid contact with the blo of his adversary, but unable to offer a defense.

His back against the ropes, Turpin could nothing but take it. He sought to bob and weav but he couldn't escape the fire of his opponen

THE RING RATINGS, November, 1951



Dado Marino

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jersey Joe Walcott
1. Ezzard Charles
2. Joe Louis
3. Rocky Marciano
4. Bob Baker
5. Clarence Henry
6. Roland LaStarza
7. Rex Layne
8. Cesar Brion
9. Lee Savold
10. Hein Ten Hoff

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Maxim
1. Archie Moore
2. Harry Matthews
3. Don Cockell
4. Bob Satterfield
5. Bob Murphy
6. Don Bucceroni
7. Harold Johnson
8. Wesbury Bascom
9. Jake LaMotta
10. Yolande Pompey

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sugar Ray Robinson
1. Randolph Turpin
2. Dave Sands
3. Laurent Dauthuille
4. Robert Villemain
5. Walter Cartier
6. Rocky Graziano
7. Ronnie Delaney
8. Eugene Hairston
9. Rocky Castellani
10. Terry Moore

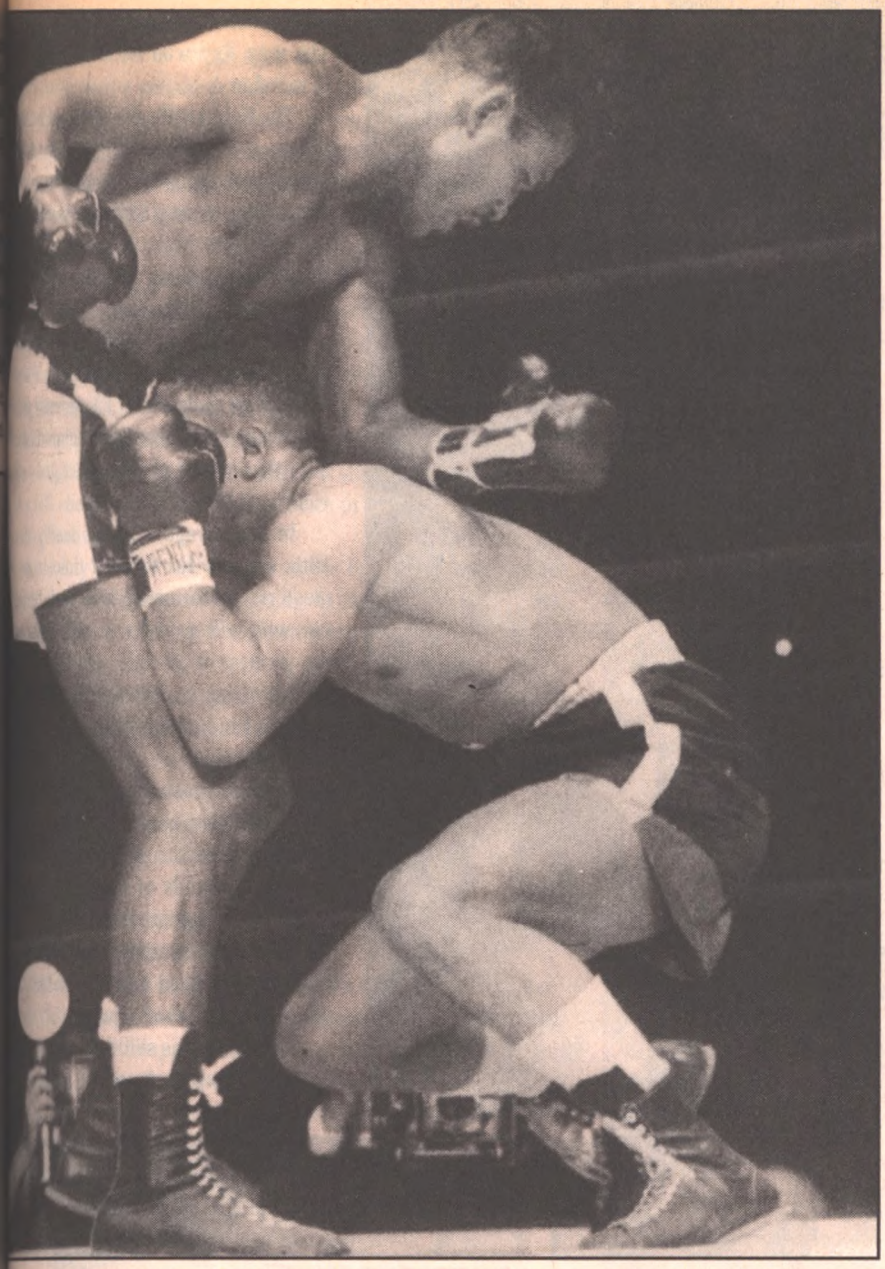
WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Kid Gavilan
2. Billy Graham
3. Charley Humez
4. Gil Turner
5. Johnny Bratton
6. Eddie Thomas
7. Charley Fusari
8. Johnny Saxton
9. Mickey Tollis
10. Fitzie Pruden

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: James Carter
1. Freddie Dawson
2. Art Aragon
3. Joe Brown
4. Luther Rawlings
5. Ike Williams
6. Paddy DeMarco
7. Del Flanagan
8. Johnny Gonsalves
9. Henry Davis
10. George Dunn

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler
1. Willie Pep
2. Ray Famechon
3. Roy Ankarah
4. Ronnie Clayton
5. Percy Bassett
6. Federico Plummer
7. Corky Gonzales
8. Charley Riley
9. Fabela Chavez
10. Glen Flanagan

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vic Toweel
1. Peter Keenan
2. Jimmy Carruthers
3. Luis Romero
4. Jean Sneyers
5. Elley Bennett
6. Maurice Sandeyron
7. Emile Chemana
8. Gianni Zuddas
9. Hadi Tijani
10. Tommy Proffitt

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Dado Marino
1. Terry Allen
2. Vic Herman
3. Teddy Gardner
4. Jimmy Laffin
5. Louis Skena
6. Charley Bohbot
7. Nazzareni Gianelli
8. Norman Tennant
9. Juan Diaz II
10. Black Pico



...'s merciless attack leaves Turpin sagging to the canvas. Only two months before, the Englishman ...ed a tremendous upset by winning Robinson's middleweight crown on points in London.

...tried to duck and get under the barrage, ...egs were gone and he could not move ...ge.

***

...r, for only a fleeting moment, Ray halt- ...nbardment to get an appraisal of the ..., but even then Randy couldn't move to ...m his awkward position. Then Robbie ...sumed the attack. A right to the jaw, ...i's knees buckled as his body leaned ... toward the canvas. Goldstein, sensing ...stepped in and halted the fight.

...squawks that followed in Randy's ...room were uncalled for. I have seen ...in London stop fights for far less than what Randy had been taking.

The action of Goldstein was proper. Had Randy had his full fighting senses while under the attack, he would have gone down and taken a count. Then the bell might have come to his rescue. Since Ray displayed signs of fatigue in the previous three rounds and had spent his strength in that terrific barrage, Turpin might have rallied sufficiently to come through with a victory.

Especially so since Goldstein had tabbed the fight up to the fatal 10th as even, four rounds to each, and five points apiece, and the margin for Ray on the judges' cards was not big. Judge Agnello had it 5-4 for Ray, with the points 7-4, and Judge Barnes scored it for Ray 5-3-1, with points 9-5. My tally showed Ray leading 5-3-1, with the points 7-4.

It seemed that Robinson might fight himself out, but he was so well-conditioned as compared to the tired Robinson whom I had seen in the London fight that he kept up an incessant fire until the stoppage. Thus Turpin's record will show his first knockout loss in 45 engagements, though in England the bout will be recorded as "stopped by referee."

Under the New York and American rules of boxing, a referee is empowered to start to count over a fighter who is holding the ropes or resting helplessly against them. Referee Arthur Donovan did that when Max Schmeling fought Joe Louis the second time. He counted one, and Max left the ropes to resume fighting.

Goldstein could have done the same in Turpin's case, in which event Randy would have had a chance to get back into the fight or would have been counted out. But the referee chose to let the affair go on, and that was his prerogative. He did a swell job, no matter what Turpin's followers thought.

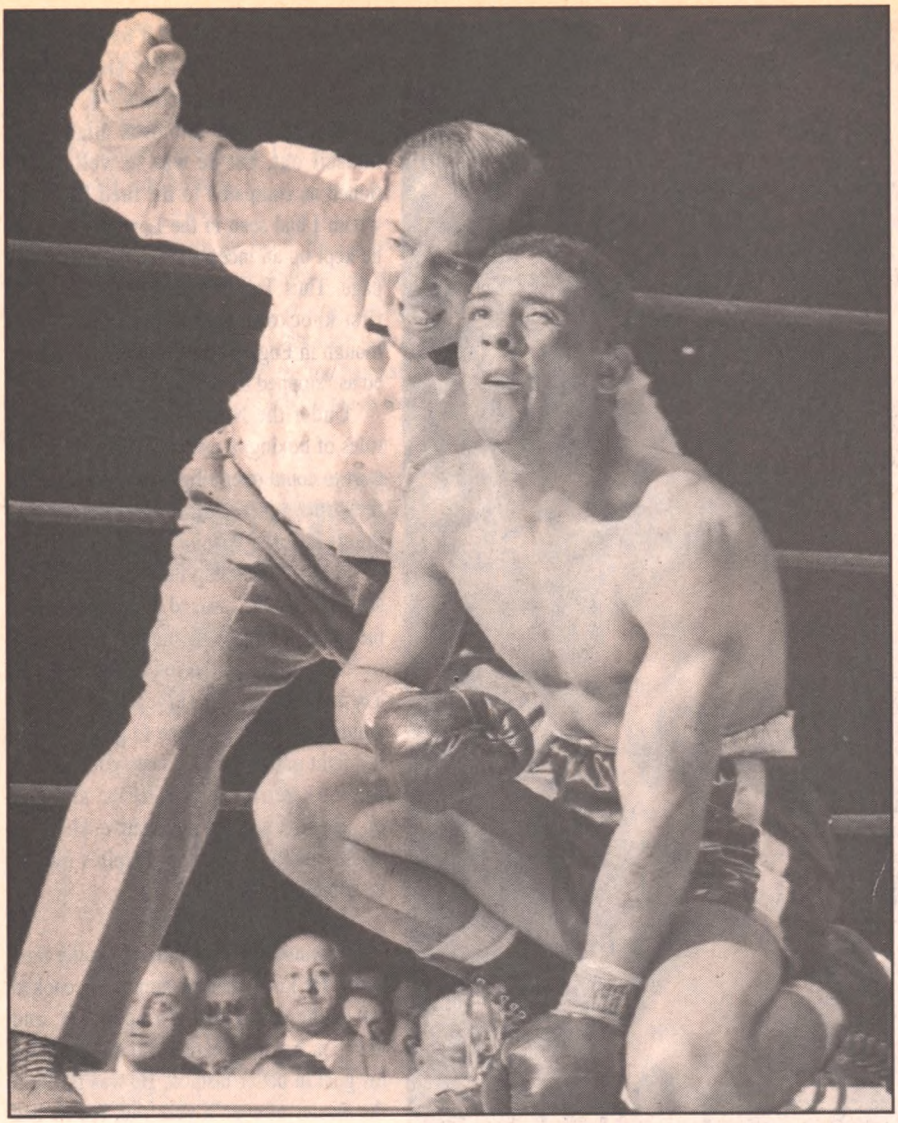
***

Robinson was magnificent in the final stand. He knew that his goose was cooked unless he could halt his opponent, and never in his long career did he shoot for his goal in better fashion. He was far from the master of even a year ago, but he had enough to gain his objective, and that's what counts.

When Goldstein went to Turpin's aid to put an end to a bout that had attracted more international attention than any since the Dempsey-Carpentier fight and the second Schmeling-Louis bout, he took a firm grasp on the helpless fighter, holding up tightly as Turpin's handlers rushed into the ring to lead the beaten British warrior to his corner. It was a dramatic finish to an otherwise not-too-exciting battle.

In his dressing quarters, Randy declared that the referee shouldn't have stopped the fight since he was rolling with Ray's punches. And in this he was supported by Jack Solomons, who shouted, "He had no right to stop the fight. They've had a few deaths here in America and everyone is scared. Turpin wasn't even hurt."

Perhaps Turpin wasn't hurt. At least he didn't show any signs of injury in the dressing room, but a helpless fighter such as Turpin undoubtedly was should not be submitted to



In the final seconds, famed referee Ruby Goldstein counts to Turpin, who can't seem to focus. The champion refused to surrender during Robinson's final assault, but Goldstein was left with no choice but to intervene.

dangerous punishment, and Randy most assuredly was taking plenty in the 10th. Jack apparently didn't feel the punches.

The fight was so hot from an international angle that for the first time in more than two decades, the Polo Grounds was a sellout. They came from England, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and Central America to see whether Randy really had the goods. They hadn't believed that the Leamington Spa boy was good enough to whip a conditioned Sugar Ray, and they left the arena convinced that he wasn't. I thought that when I attended their first fight in London.

***

So many fans had thought that Ray still had what he displayed when he relieved Jake LaMotta of the title; they made him an 11-5 shot almost from the day the contracts were sig... The way Ray won back the crown vindica... those odds.

The fight recalls the action of referee Geo... Blake, one of the world's greatest, when, ... only 15 seconds to go, he stopped the M... Schmeling-Young Stribling bout and awar... the honors to Max. At the time, Stribling, ... Turpin, was taking punches but couldn't ... any and was defenseless.

Not only was Robinson avenged for ... defeat he suffered in London two months pr... ous, but he took with it his greatest payday. ... man whose pride had been injured had regai... his title and the prestige that goes with a ... victory.

In that savage, searing, deadly attack in ... 10th, we saw for the first time in the bout ... masterly performance of a truly great figh... one who will go down in ring history as on... the greatest of all-time, and the best all-aro... fighter of his era. This despite the many fl... we found in both his Turpin bouts, especial... his timing.

But one must expect that when he reac... Ray's age and has been fighting for as l... Robinson missed so many punches in the e... and ninth rounds of the second fight tha... most ardent supporters realized he no long... the invincible scrapper of two years ago. ... Sugar Ray of then would have found the ... every time he tossed a punch.

Stripped of his skill by the moving years, ... harried by an awkwardly effective sty...

Despite the wounds of war, Robinson, again the world middleweight champion, is able to ... smile in his dressing room. Despite public demand, a third fight vs. Turpin never materialized.

this fight to me seemed one of Ray's best. It took more than ighting skill to come across with that furious rally that turned ight have been a certain defeat due to the deep cut he suffered reat triumph. In the second round, the only one which I gave to a margin of more than one point, Sugar staggered Randy with a t almost floored him, but instead of moving in for the kill, he back and missed a kayo chance.

***

ith the exception of the final round, almost all the thrilling action, tle there was, took place before the seventh; Randy and Ray he crowd's boos in the eighth and ninth. Toward the end of the ession, Ray, riled by the hand-clapping, wound up with a flurry hes that had Randy backing away.

e fourth and fifth rounds were hard-fought. In the former, Randy powerful, stinging right that caused a slight swelling over the r's left cheek, and in the fifth, a series of right crosses by each with effectiveness.

en came Ray's best round other than the last. In the sixth he put e had for an excellent show, chasing Randy around the ring with k. Turpin often rushed into a clinch when he wasn't back-track-

casionally in that round, and the eighth, Randy landed stiff, lefts to the face, but he was not displaying the excellent punch- er he did in their previous battle.

en Ray lost his crown and was interviewed by the press, he gly remarked to a query, "I just loaned him the title." He must en in earnest, but he had to do a lot of punching to get it back.

***

rpin was not a disappointment in ruggedness, in stolid indiffer- punishment, and in heart.

for those who had been accustomed to seeing British boxers strate cleverness, science, and strict adherence to the rules of ring e, Turpin was a disappointment.

rpin was the most unorthodox middleweight since the awkward w, Al McCoy, who knocked out George Chip, Frank Klaus' r, in Brooklyn in April 1914.

se who had seen fighters like Jem Driscoll, Owen Moran, even dier Wells, and in more recent years, Tommy Farr, found in marked deviation from the British pattern.

***

fore and after the London fight, there were no acerbities and ics. Robinson was the favorite, Robinson got a shellacking, and SA, the sports pages were loaded with the high accolade for

having been out of the middleweight championship picture for since the Bob Fitzsimmons tenure, Merrie England again had and Uncle Sam was right glad to see the change and to wel- alutary event.

New York fight, on the other hand, had some bad developments ce, and certainly an acrimonious aftermath.

eral London writers sent back to their papers a lot of silly gush ngsters and gunmen in New York dominating the city life and ng situation.

ndon, this may have been taken seriously by the readers of the popular newspapers. In New York, the gangsters and gunmen a lot of laughs. The *World-Telegram & Sun* had a funny piece is gush and treated it with all the ridicule it deserved. ■

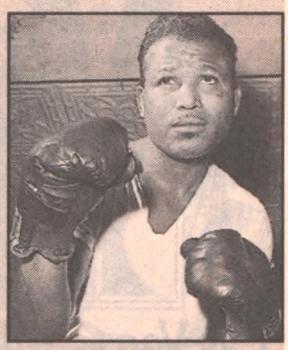
THE RING, November 1951

The Cover: Rated third by THE RING, unbeaten heavyweight contender Rocky Marciano is looking forward to a showdown with aging former titlist Joe Louis. The winner is likely to secure a crack at world champion Jersey Joe Walcott, who has all but frozen the title after dethroning Ezzard Charles in July 1951.

The Welterweight Mess: Is Kid Gavilan the world welterweight champion or not? It was initially thought that Gavilan's points win over Billy Graham in August crowned him as the successor to Sugar Ray Robinson. But as explained in an analysis by Nat Loubet, until "The Keed" defeats European champion Charley Humez, he'll qualify only as a title claimant.

Still The Champ: It's nice to have something to fall back on. In May, world light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim failed in his attempt to capture the heavyweight title. In August, Maxim rebounded by defending the 175-pound crown with a unanimous 15-round decision over Irish Bob Murphy at Madison Square Garden.

Future Kings Of The Ring: In "Making The Grade," Art Collins examines a handful of promising prospects, including Paul Pender, a 20-year-old middleweight from Massachusetts, and Chuck Davey (pictured), a red-headed welterweight out of Michigan. Davey, a former NCAA champion, is 23-0-1 as a pro.

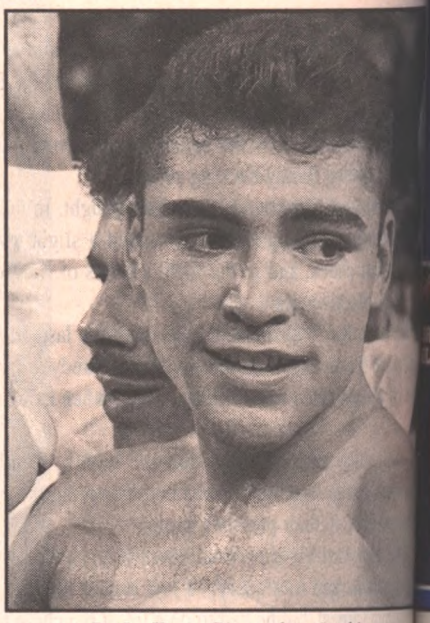


Fighter Of The Month: An easy choice: Having regained the middleweight crown by stopping Randolph Turpin, Sugar Ray Robinson receives the honor. Runner-up: welterweight Gil Turner, who stopped former lightweight king Ike Williams. According to editor Nat Fleischer, "[Turner] has reached a point in his career where he looms as an excellent prospect to win the welterweight crown."

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

OSCAR'S ENCORE



De La Hoya: Big, and getting bigger

Remember the prime of Sugar Ray Leonard, when he was so confident of his abilities that he tackled dangerous southpaw and junior middleweight world champion Ayub Kalule as a *tuneup* for Thomas Hearns? Newly crowned IBF lightweight champion Oscar De La Hoya would like to pattern his career after Sugar Ray. And judging by the strategy he and promoter Bob Arum have adopted, he's on the same fast track to superstardom.

It's too early, of course, to determine whether De La Hoya will be 1995's Fighter of the Year. But if he indeed wins that award, it will be largely because he topped two established champions, John-John Molina and Rafael Ruelas, in consecutive bouts. Look for the tests to keep on coming. De La Hoya and Arum are planning for big fights, and *only* big fights. Next up will be WBA junior lightweight titlist Genaro Hernandez on September 16. After that will come either former 130-pound titlist Jesse James Leija or WBC lightweight king Miguel Angel Gonzalez.

"The one great thing about Oscar's situation," said HBO Vice President Lou DiBella, "is that not o is he one of the best fighters in the world, but he can go either up or down in weight, and there are pl of names for him to fight. He's made it clear he'd like to take on Julio Cesar Chavez, but that's not g happen."

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Hopkins: Unification plans

LISTEN UP

A couple of fights HBO is interested in: **Roy Jones-Steve Collins** and **Riddick Bowe-Lennox Lew** There's talk of a battle between newly crowned IBF junior lightweight champion **Ed Hopson** and T **Patterson** ... As incredible as it may seem, the WBC seems intent on calling for a third title fight bet WBC super welterweight champion **Luis Santana** and **Terry Norris**. Wonder if the Las Vegas sportsb will quote odds on a third consecutive disqualification ... According to newly crowned IBF middlew king **Bernard Hopkins**, "**Don King** is itching to get the title," so the **Butch Lewis**-promoted champ hoping for a late-summer unification match against WBC champion **Julian Jackson** or WBA king J **Castro**. Hopkins would be favored against either champion. First, however, will come an easier defense haps against **Lonny Beasley**.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
George Foreman	Axel Schulz	3-2	Foreman can't beat a credible opponent
Michael Moorer	George Foreman	2-1	Lightning can't strike twice, can it?
Oscar De La Hoya	Genaro Hernandez	7-2	Another dynamic battle of L.A.
Terry Norris	Luis Santana	12-1	Would be 30-1 except for DQ possibility

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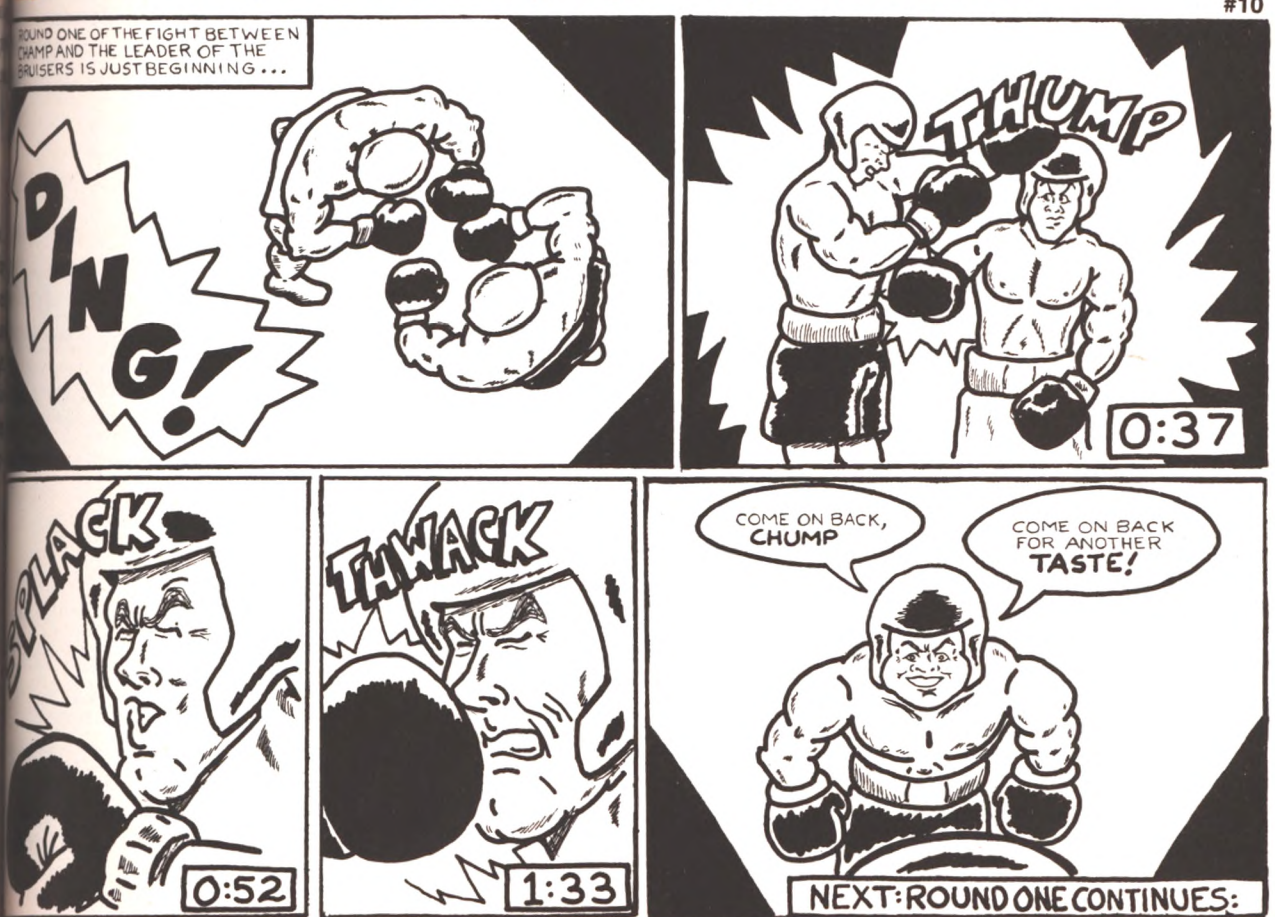

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